Chichikogusa

Chapter 7

BY TAGAWA MI

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THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO RELEASE A SECOND VOLUME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WELL THEN, LET'S CONTINUE THIS FATHER-SON JOURNEY. I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY IT.

—TAGAWA MI

ちちこぐさ

【父子草】

2

田川ミ

BLADE COMICS

ちちこぐさ 【父子草】 2

田川ミ

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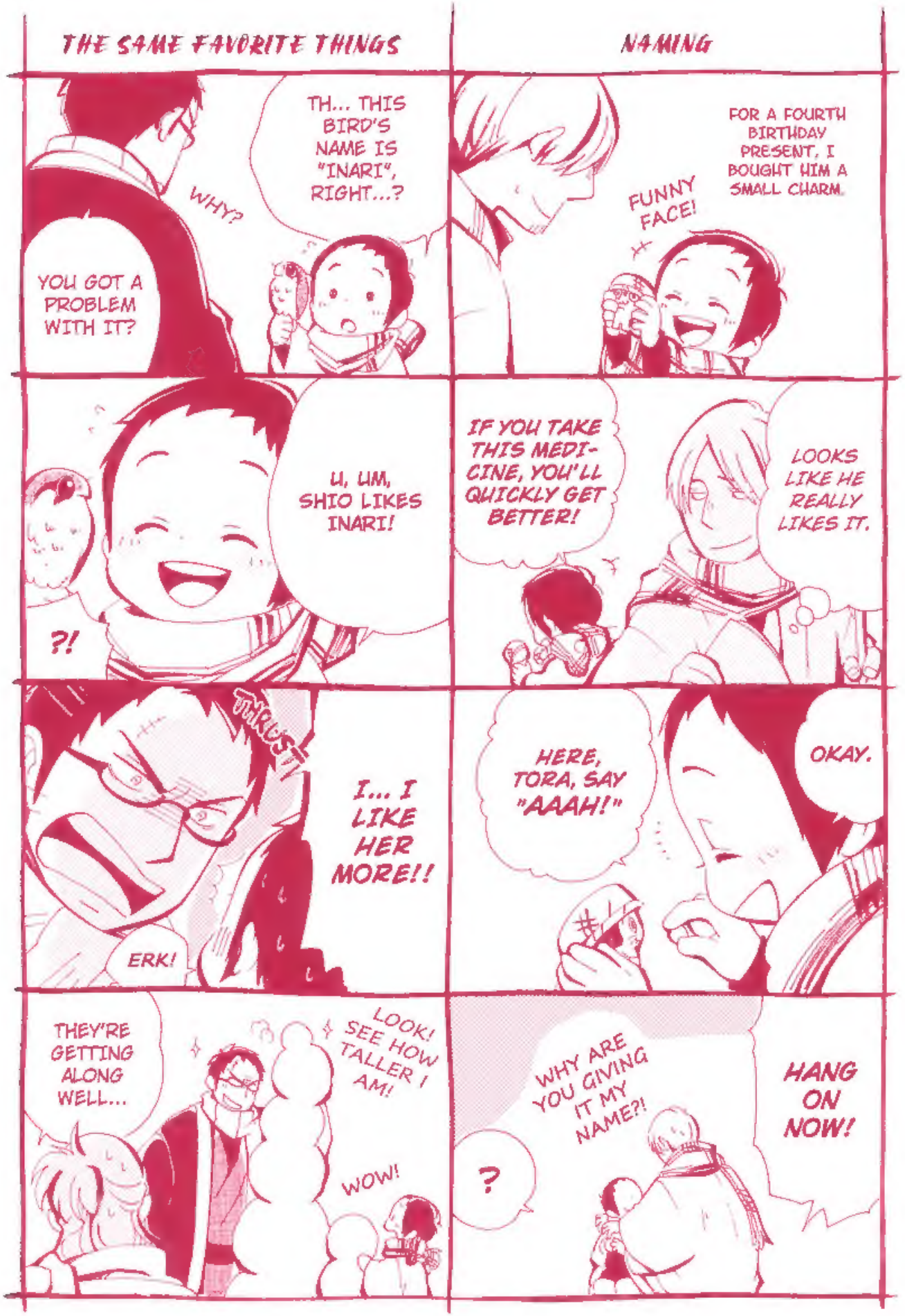
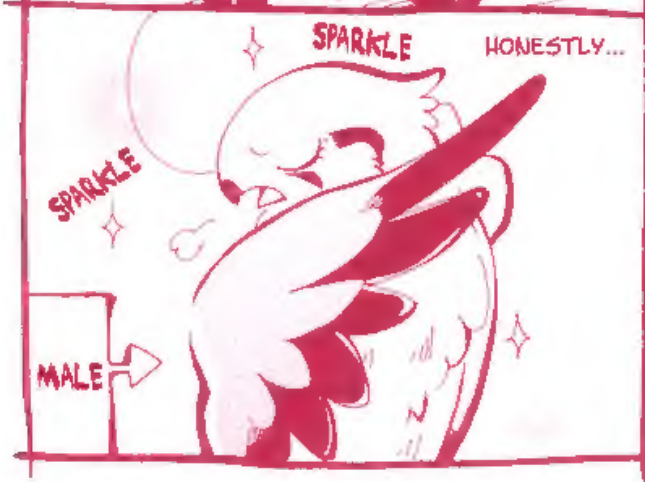
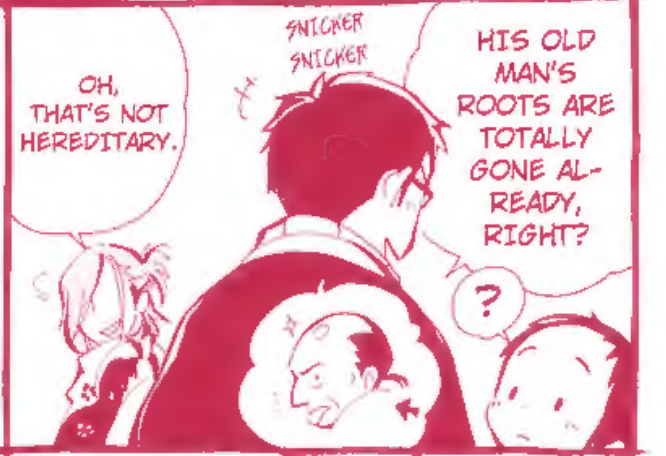
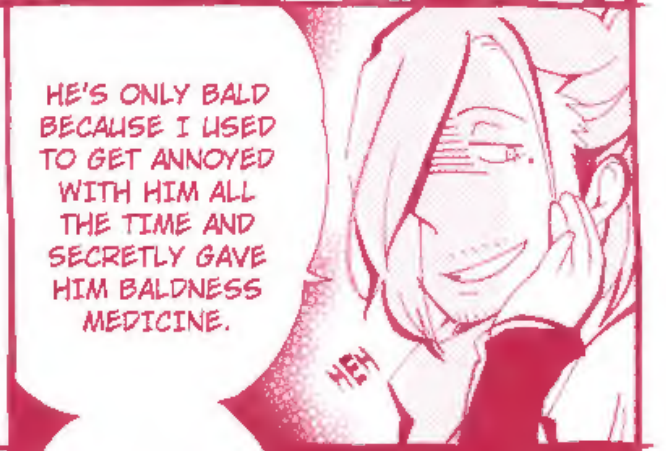

THE SAME FAVORITE THINGS
TH... THIS BIRD'S NAME IS "INARI", RIGHT...?
WHY?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
U, UM, SHIO LIKES INARI!
?!
I... I LIKE HER MORE!!
TWIRL!
ERK!
THEY'RE GETTING ALONG WELL...
LOOK! SEE HOW TALLER I AM!
WOW!
NAMING
FOR A FOURTH BIRTHDAY PRESENT, I BOUGHT HIM A SMALL CHARM.
FUNNY FACE!
IF YOU TAKE THIS MEDICINE, YOU'LL QUICKLY GET BETTER!
LOOKS LIKE HE REALLY LIKES IT.
HERE, TORA, SAY "AAAH!"
OKAY.
WHY ARE YOU GIVING IT MY NAME?!
?
HANG ON NOW!

IRYOU



THE TRUTH ABOUT BALDNESS





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【父子草】

CHAPTER 7 ✻ INFANTILE REGRESSION AND BEING SPOILED

CHAPTER 8 ✻ BITTER MEMORIES AND HARSH WORDS

CHAPTER 9 ✻ A BIRTHDAY CHARM

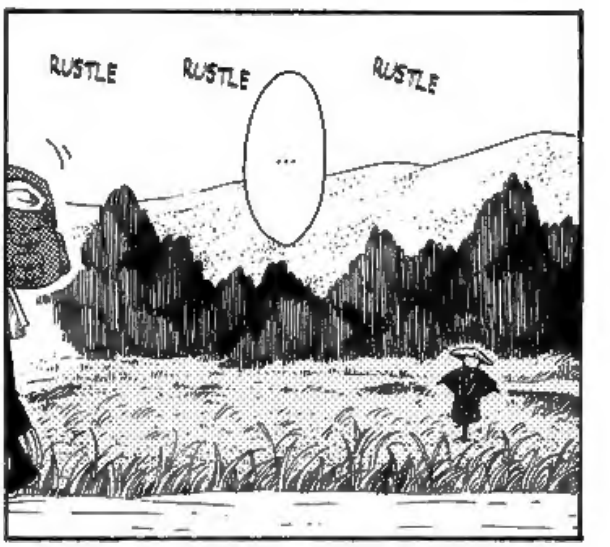
CHAPTER 10 ✻ TORAKICHI'S EXHAUSTION

CHAPTER 11 ✻ SHIROU ALL ALONE

CHAPTER 12 ✻ A FATHER'S DECISION

RUSTLE

SHIROU?


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...

SHIROU!!
HEY!!
WHERE DID YOU GO?
HUH?
?!
BOO!

HA HA HA HA HA!
MAN, YOU SURPRISED ME!

I'M A TRAVELING MEDICINE-SELLER.

HA HA HA!
I TRAVEL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, TAKING MEDICINE TO VARIOUS CUSTOMERS.
ONCE A YEAR,

ALONG WITH

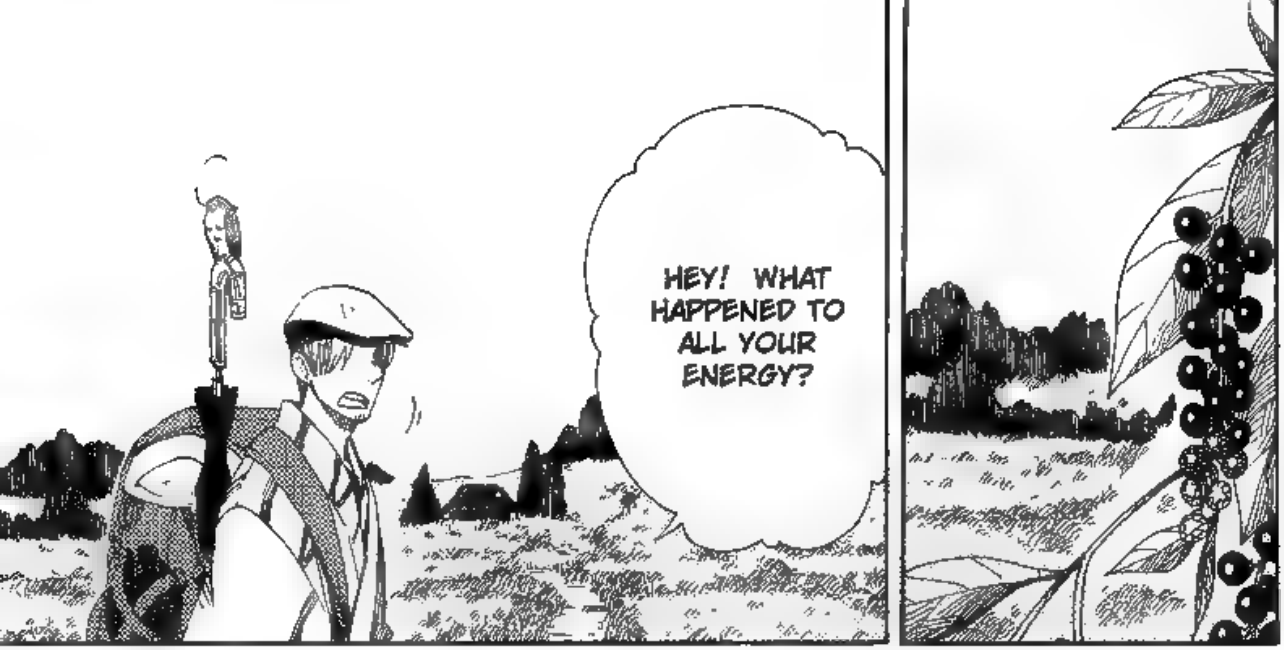
THIS CHILD OF MINE...

PAPA, HURRY UP!

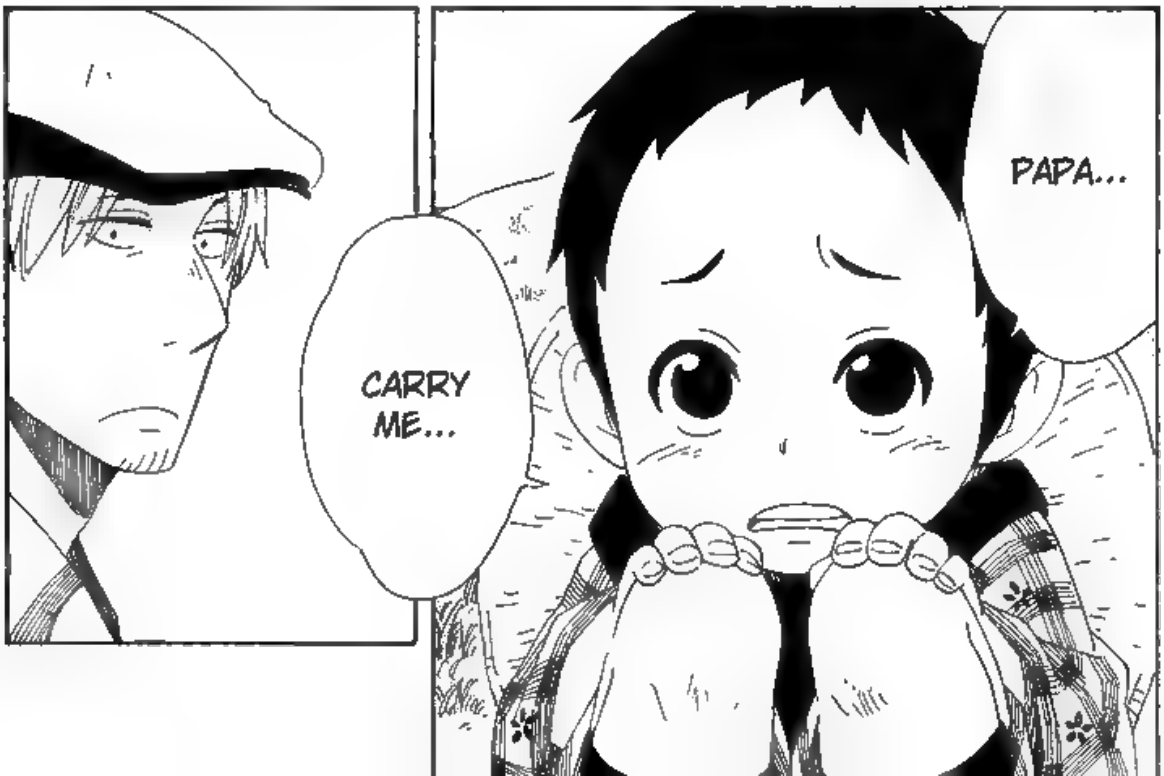
CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

—CHAPTER 7:— INFANTILE REGRESSION AND BEING SPOILED


HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR ENERGY?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE NOW, TOO!


CARRY ME...
PAPA...

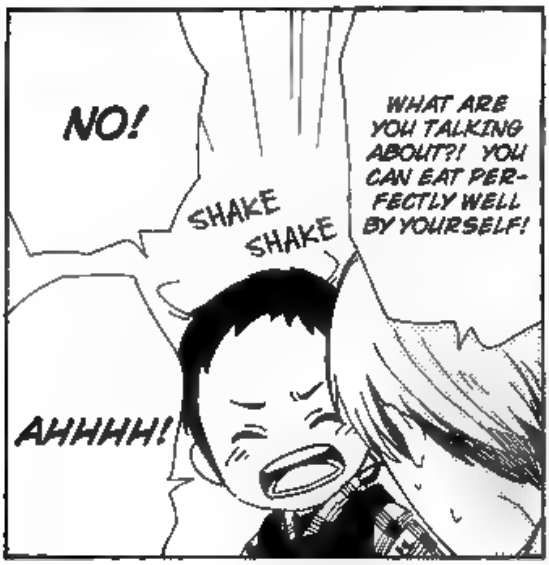
CARRY ME!
MY FOOT HURTS!
HUH?
WE'LL EAT LUNCH IN THE NEXT TOWN, SO JUST HOLD OUT UNTIL THEN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHAKE SHAKE
NUH UH!
...
SEE?
THERE'S NOTHING...
THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM THIS MORNING .
DID YOU GET A BLISTER?
UHH .
CARRY ME...?

SIGH...
'KAY!
HUG
UP WE GO!
WELL, SINCE IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE .
YEAH.
BUT HE'LL BE FOUR NEXT MONTH.
MY, HE'S ONLY THREE?!
DID YOUR PAPA MAKE IT FOR YOU?
MY, THAT'S A BIG ONIGIRI!
HE'S SO SMALL, BUT ALREADY COMING THIS FAR INTO THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
WHAT A GOOD BOY HE IS.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOME OF MY STEW TOO, OKAY?
OH MY!
CHOMP
HE IS MATURE!
YOU MADE IT ALL BY YOURSELF, HUH?
NOPE.

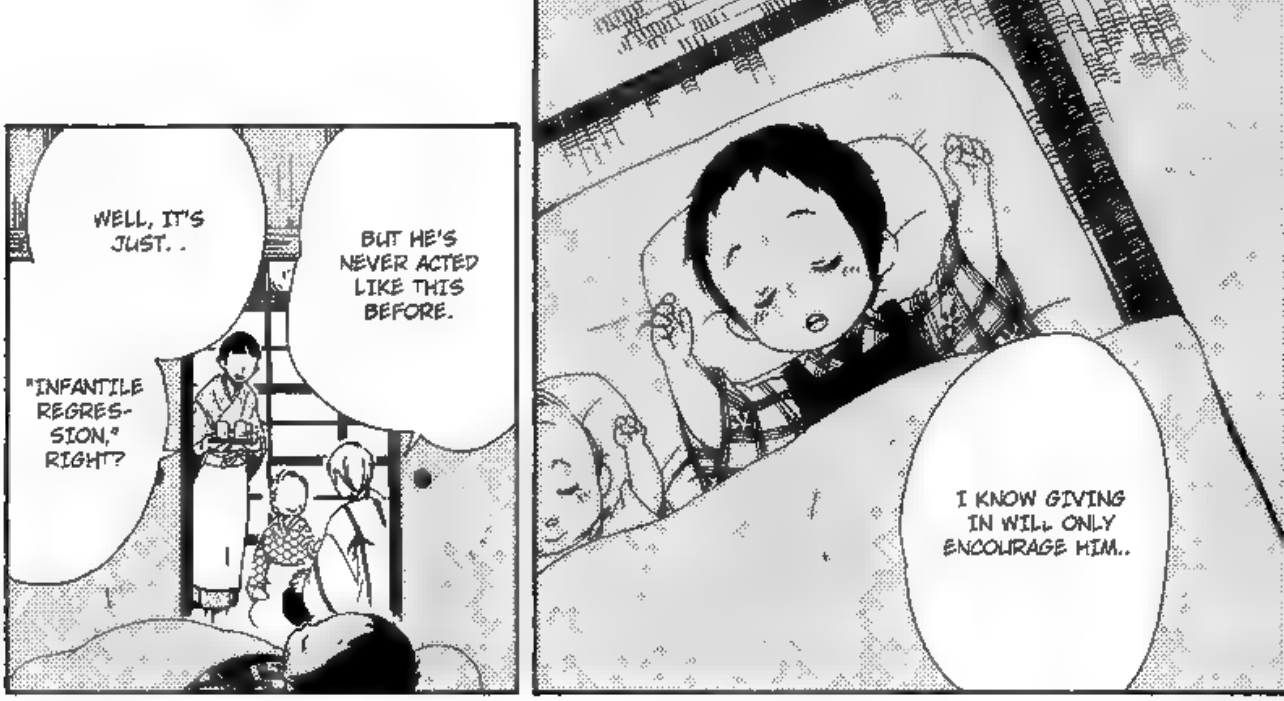
AHHH!
HERE, SHIROU, YOU WANT SOME STEW?

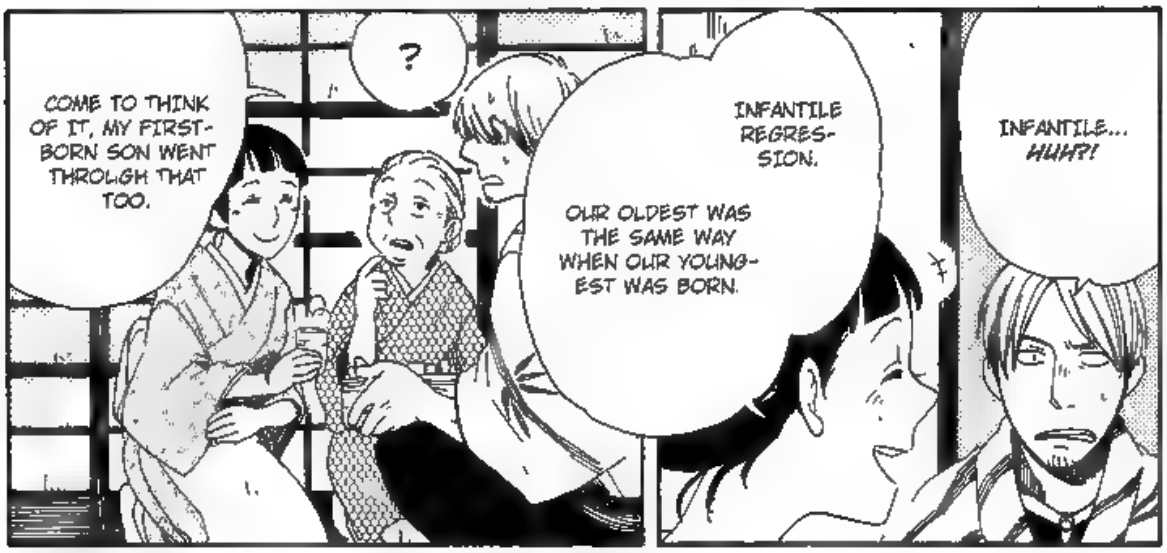
HERE, AHHH!
AHHH!

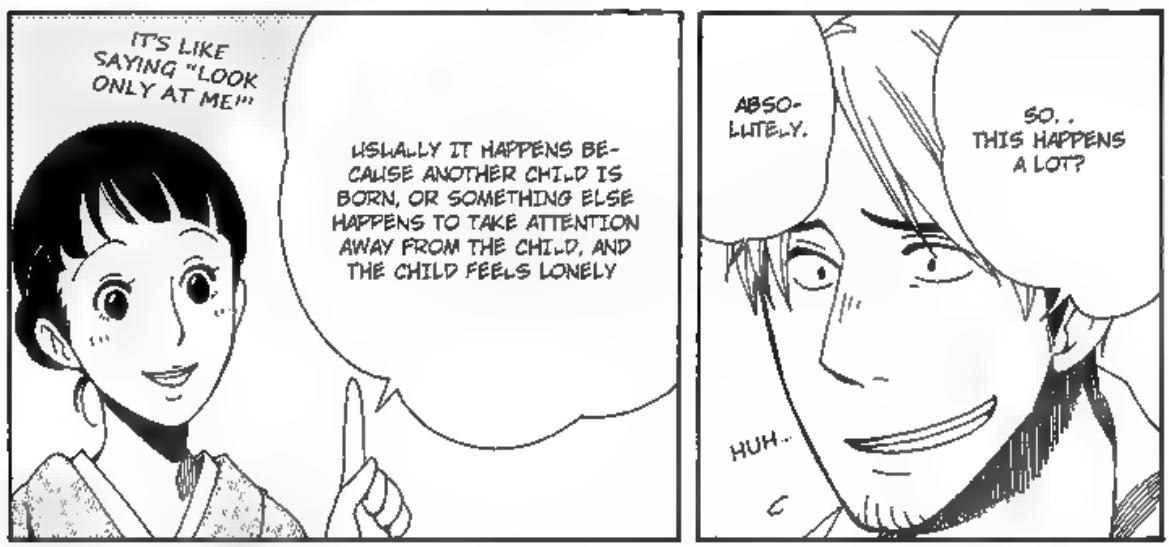

NO!
SHAKE SHAKE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU CAN EAT PERFECTLY WELL BY YOURSELF!
AHHHH!

SHIYO WANTS TO "AHHH!" TOO!
HUHHH?!

OKAY, OKAY! HERE, OKAY?!
AHHH!
AH...
WHA...
AHHH-HHH!
CHEW CHEW
AHHH!
THINGS HAVE BEEN ROUGH LATELY, HUH..?


I KNOW GIVING IN WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE HIM..
BUT HE'S NEVER ACTED LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WELL, IT'S JUST. .
"INFANTILE REGRES-SION," RIGHT?


INFANTILE... HUH?!
INFANTILE REGRES-SION.
OUR OLDEST WAS THE SAME WAY WHEN OUR YOUNG-EST WAS BORN.
?
COME TO THINK OF IT, MY FIRST-BORN SON WENT THROUGH THAT TOO.


SO. . THIS HAPPENS A LOT?
ABSO-LUTELY.
HUH..
USUALLY IT HAPPENS BE-CAUSE ANOTHER CHILD IS BORN, OR SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS TO TAKE ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE CHILD, AND THE CHILD FEELS LONELY
IT'S LIKE SAYING "LOOK ONLY AT ME!"

I SEE..
HE MUST BE LONELY.
AFTER ALL, HIS MOTHER IS NO LONGER...
I...
ALREADY DECIDED I'M GOING TO TAKE ON ALL HIS SADNESS.
AH!
WELL ANYWAY, IF THAT'S THE ONLY REASON, THAT'S OKAY.
AH, HE'S REALLY HERE!
CHATTER CHATTER
I WANT HIM TO LIKE ME, AFTER ALL...
I DON'T MIND SPOILING HIM IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE WHILE.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA BE HERE?!
WHERE DID YOU ALL COME FROM?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?
CHATTER CHATTER
WHERE ARE OUR GIFTS?! DID YOU BRING PAPER BALLOONS?!
YOU FINALLY CAME, TORAKICHI!
IT'S THE MEDICINE-SELLER!
YEAAH!
...
HA HA HA!
YOU AGAIN, SHIROU?
WAAAHH ...!
WAAA AAAA HHHH!
ω

C'MERE
SHE'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE IRRITABLE THESE DAYS.
GUESS I DON'T NEED TO SAY WHOSE FAULT IT IS...
YOUR AUNT GOT MAD AT YOU AGAIN, HUH?
AHHH.. FINE.
EVEN POISONS CAN BECOME VERY POWERFUL DRUGS IF YOU STUDY THEM WELL.
DIGITALIS. IT'S VERY POISONOUS,
BUT IN WESTERN MEDICINE IT CAN BE TURNED INTO A VERY EFFECTIVE CARDIOTONIC DRUG.
HEY, HEY, UNCA, WHAT'S THIS?!
WELL THEN, WHAT DO YOU USE IT FOR?
POISON BUT MEDISHIN!
IT'S THE SAME!
HMM..
WOLFSBANE!

AHHH!
THAT'S CORRECT.
HEH..
PAIN RELIEF. .?
LMMMMMM..
PAPA!
STEP STEP
I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE!
GRAB
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU! HEY, HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE LEARNED TODAY AT SCHOOL?
AH, AND WE'RE HOME!
毒植入禁ズ
SIGN: MANY DANGEROUS PLANTS, PLEASE STAY OUT.
IT WAS SO NEAT! LISTEN...
HA HA HA HA HA!
AHH! GIVE ME ONE TOO!

WOW, A CAT!
HOW CUTE!
WHAT PICTURES ARE ON THEM THIS TIME?
?!
WHAM
PAAAPAAAAA!

AH, THIS IS MY SON.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.
WHO IS IT?
HE'S BEEN TRAVELING WITH ME STARTING THIS YEAR.

OH, IT'S YOU, SHIROU.
YOU WOKE UP, HUH?
SHAKE SHAKE
NNNNNN!

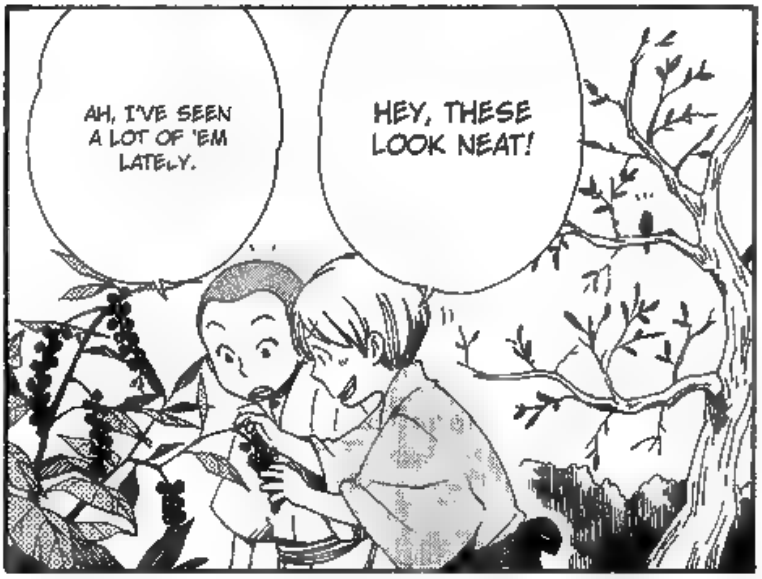
YOU HAVE A KID!
A BOY? HOW OLD?
WHAT'S HIS NAME?

HEY, SHIROU!
SHAKE SHAKE
NO!

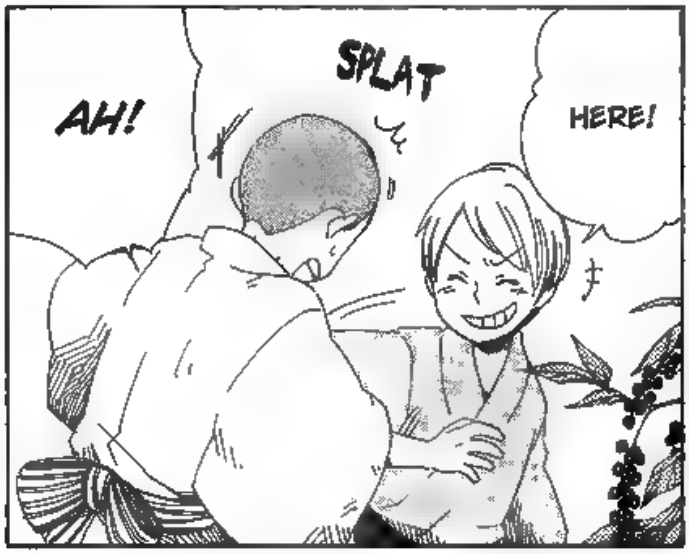
RUB RUB
TELL THEM WHAT YOUR NAME IS.
..
AND WHERE'S YOUR GREETING?

SORRY.
NO..
HE'S JUST SHY AROUND PEOPLE HE'S NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
HE STILL CAN'T TALK?
OHHH.

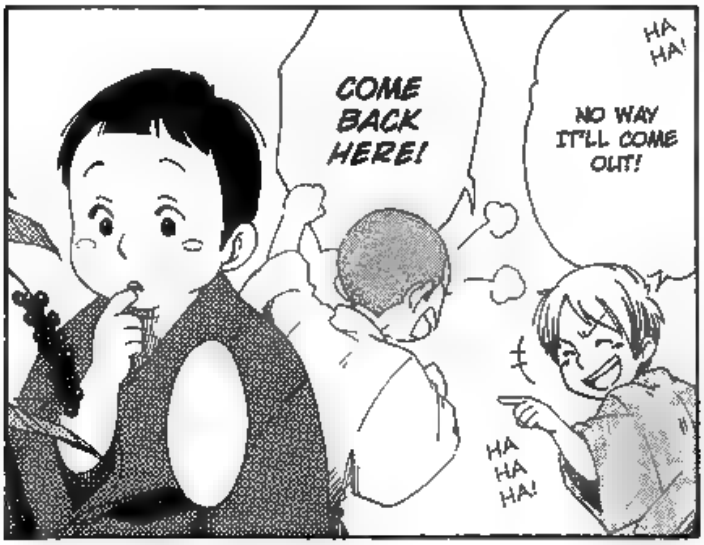
AH. .

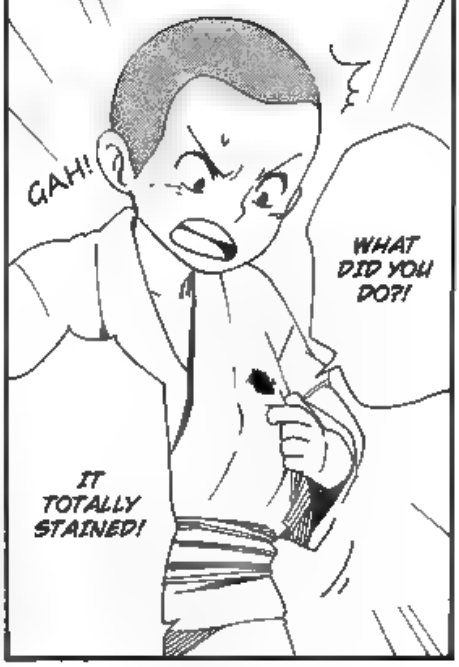

AH, I'VE SEEN A LOT OF 'EM LATELY.
HEY, THESE LOOK NEAT!

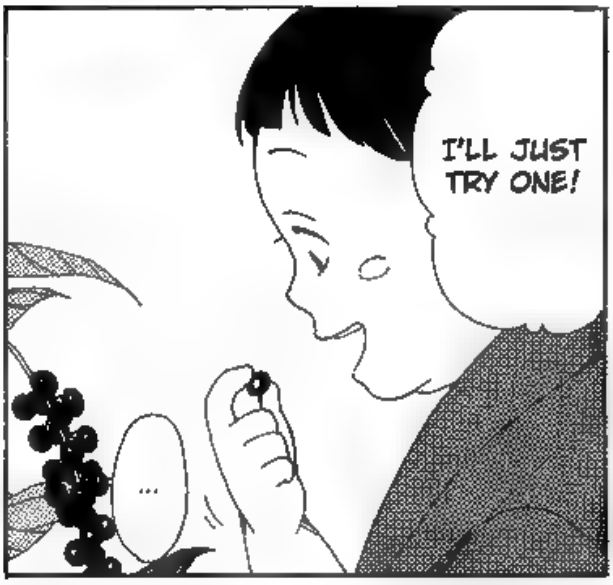
SIGH...


AH!
SPLAT
HERE!

LET ME SEE...
ARE THEY MOUNTAIN GRAPES?
NO, THEY'RE NOT.

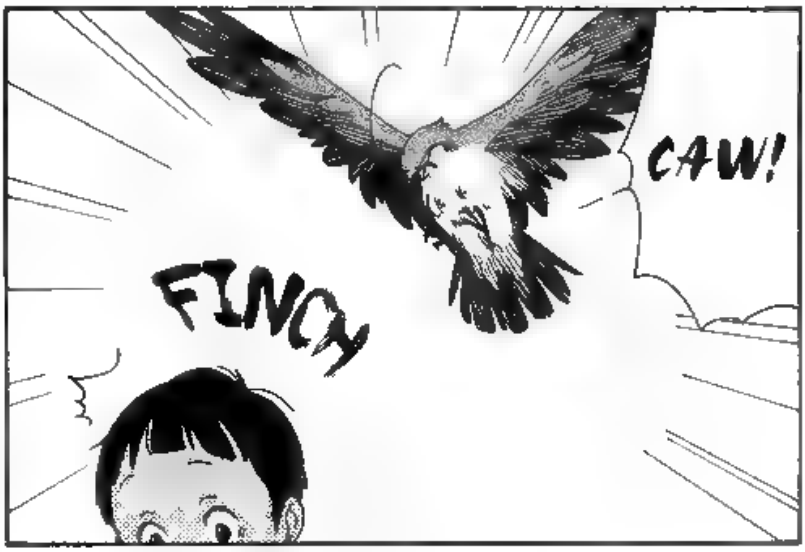

COME BACK HERE!
NO WAY IT'LL COME OUT!
HA HA!
HA HA HA!


GAH!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
IT TOTALLY STAINED!


I'LL JUST TRY ONE!
...

AGAIN? YOU BETTER QUIT EATING THINGS.
HEY, YOU THINK THESE TASTE GOOD?
YOU'RE GONNA GET A STOMACH ACHE!

?
CAW CAW CAW CAW!


CAW!
FINCH

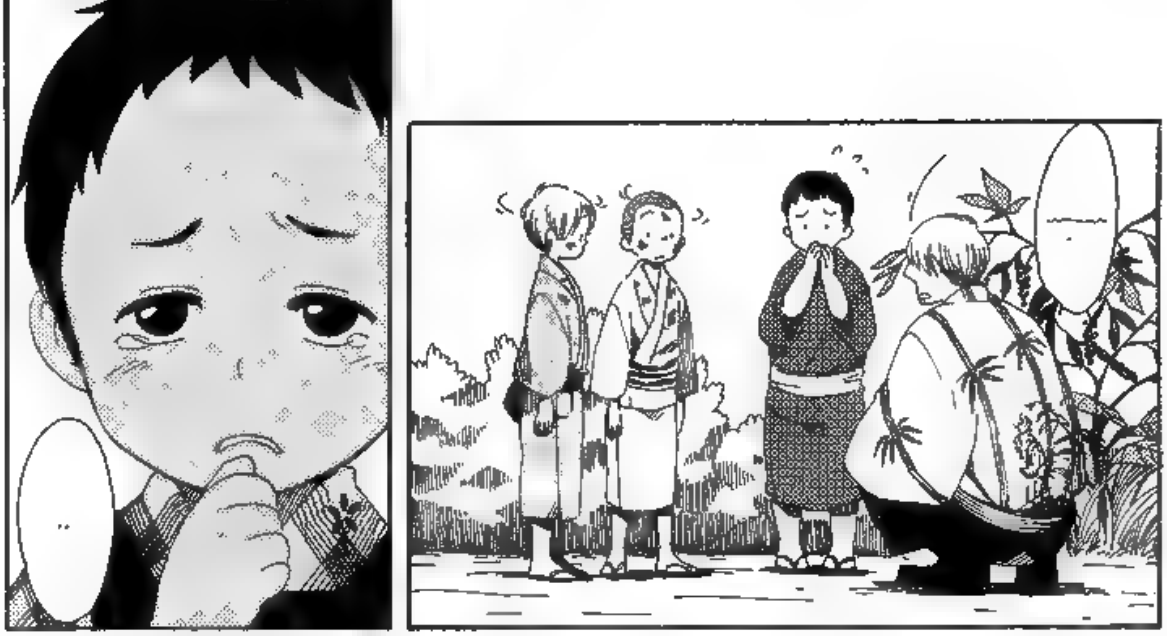
!!
RUSTLE
CAW!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
CAW!
WHAT IS IT, IEJI ..?
STARE
DON'T EAT THOSE!
THOSE BERRIES...?! YOU OVER THERE!
SHIROU!
FLINCH
NO!
SHIROU, GET DOWN FOR A LITTLE, OKAY?
CLING

I SAID GET DOWN!

?!

YEAH!
LET'S GO SEE TOO!
...

DON'T KNOOOW! I GUESS THE BOYS MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING AGAIN?
OH? WHAT HAPPENED?

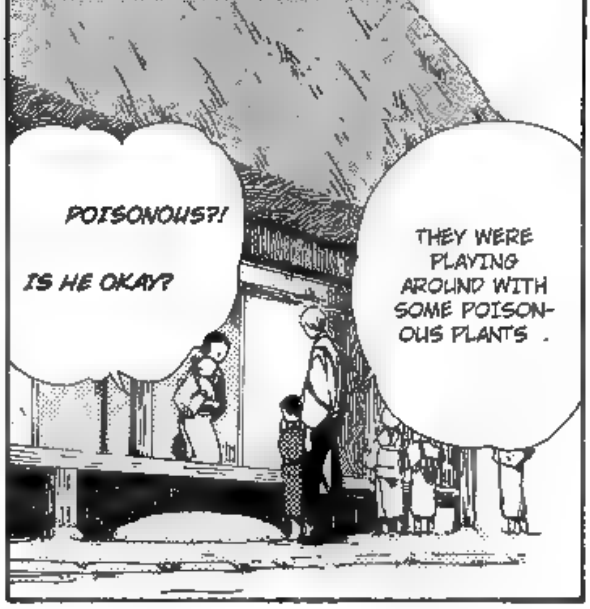


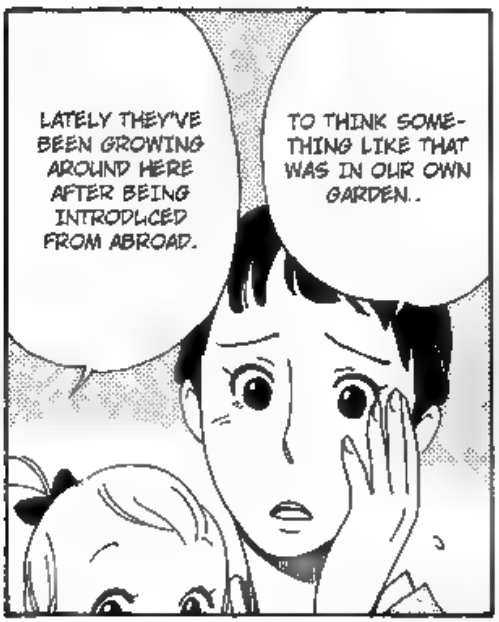
AH.
WHAT HAP-
PENED?

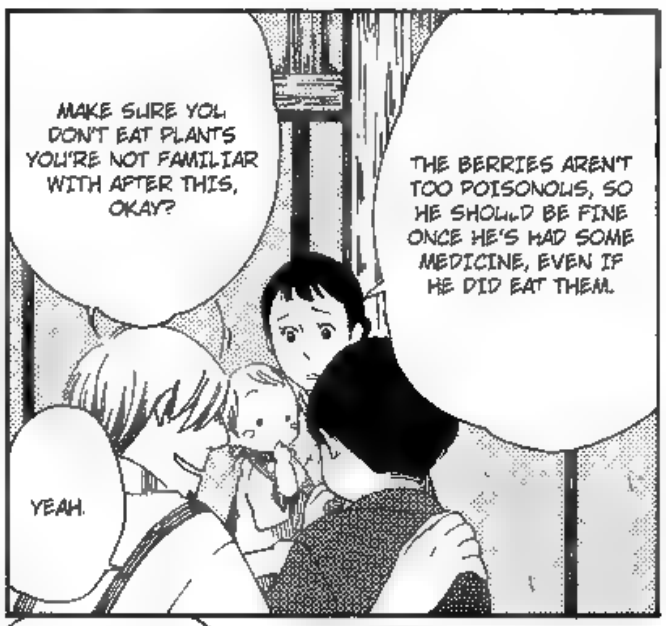
FLAP
SIGH

DASH

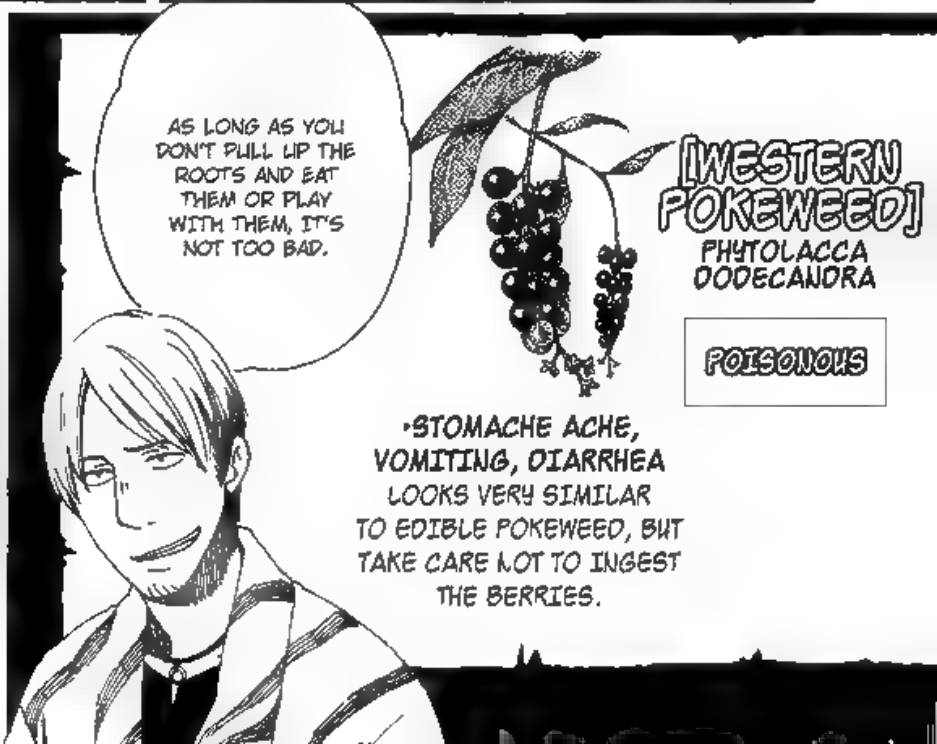
IT WAS JUST THE BERRIES.
SINCE THEY WERE JUST PLAYING WITH THEM, THEY JUST NEED TO WASH THEIR HANDS.
I ATE THEM..
WAAAH


POISONOUS?!
IS HE OKAY?
THEY WERE PLAYING AROUND WITH SOME POISONOUS PLANTS .


LATELY THEY'VE BEEN GROWING AROUND HERE AFTER BEING INTRODUCED FROM ABROAD.
TO THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS IN OUR OWN GARDEN..


MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EAT PLANTS YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH AFTER THIS, OKAY?
THE BERRIES AREN'T TOO POISONOUS, SO HE SHOULD BE FINE ONCE HE'S HAD SOME MEDICINE, EVEN IF HE DID EAT THEM.
YEAH.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, SHI .
HUH?
POINT
POINT


AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PULL UP THE ROOTS AND EAT THEM OR PLAY WITH THEM, IT'S NOT TOO BAD.
[WESTERN POKEWEED]
PHYTOLACCA DODECANDRA
POISONOUS
•STOMACHE ACHE, VOMITING, DIARRHEA
LOOKS VERY SIMILAR TO EDIBLE POKEWEED, BUT TAKE CARE NOT TO INGEST THE BERRIES.

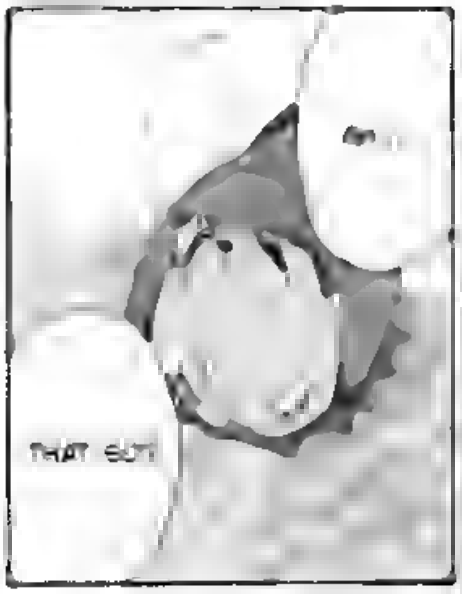
WHERE'S SHIROU?

HUH?
NO!
PAPA, GO OVER THERE!
WHAT DO YOU DO ALL DAY?
PLAYING HERE AND SEEK?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SHIYO'S PAPA
PAPA
MEANIE!
NO!!
WHAT ARE YOU

NO!
SHIYO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT!
YOU DIDN'T LIKE SEEING ME LEAVE YOU FOR THOSE OTHER KIDS, HUH?
BUT I HAD TO. THEY WERE EATING POISONOUS PLANTS, AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN VERY DANGEROUS
AHH

SHIROU!


THAT SUX

SHIYO... SHIYO HATES PAPA!
GO AWAY!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THAT STUBBORN OF A KID

WELL THEN, YOU CAN JUST STAY
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

HA. CAUGHT YOU!
PAPA!
SFX: SHOVE

NOW I'VE GOT YOU FOR GOOD, RIGHT?
?!
NOOOOO!
OWW
WHAT'S "NOOO" ABOUT IT?! EVEN THOUGH YOU JUST CHANGED YOUR ATTITUDE COMPLETELY!
PAPA YOU MEANIE!
WHACK
WHACK
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING SILLY!
PAPA
IS ONLY YOUR PAPA, AFTER ALL!

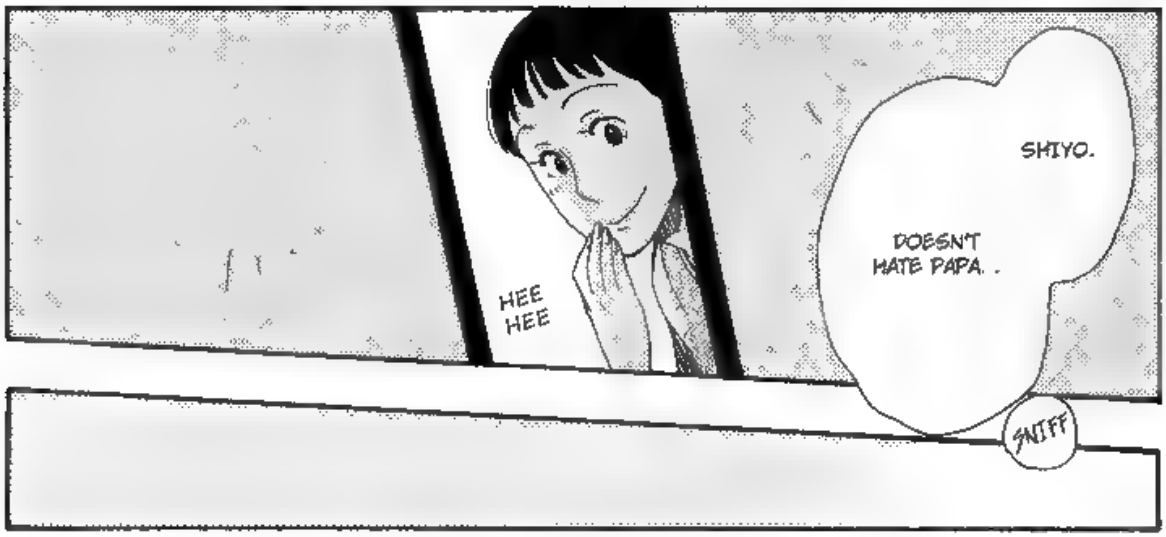
AND ALL THIS JUST AFTER I DECIDED
NEVER TO MAKE YOU FEEL LONELY.
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
AHH... GEEZ...

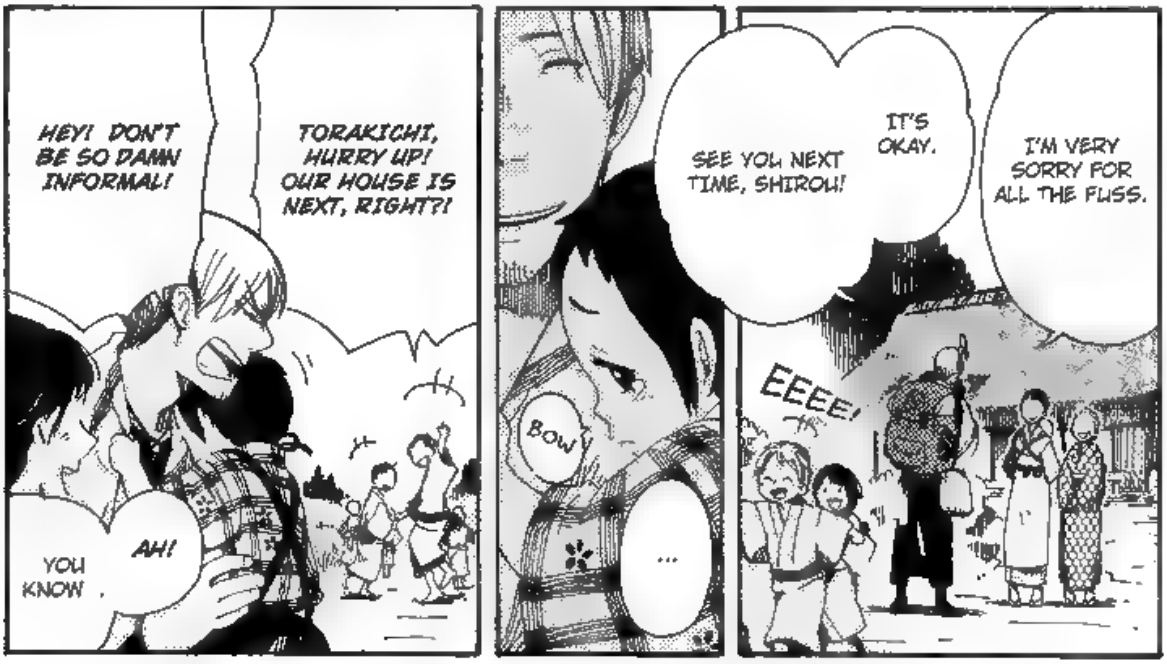
ALTHOUGH I'LL STILL BE THE SAME INCONSIDERATE PAPA THEN..

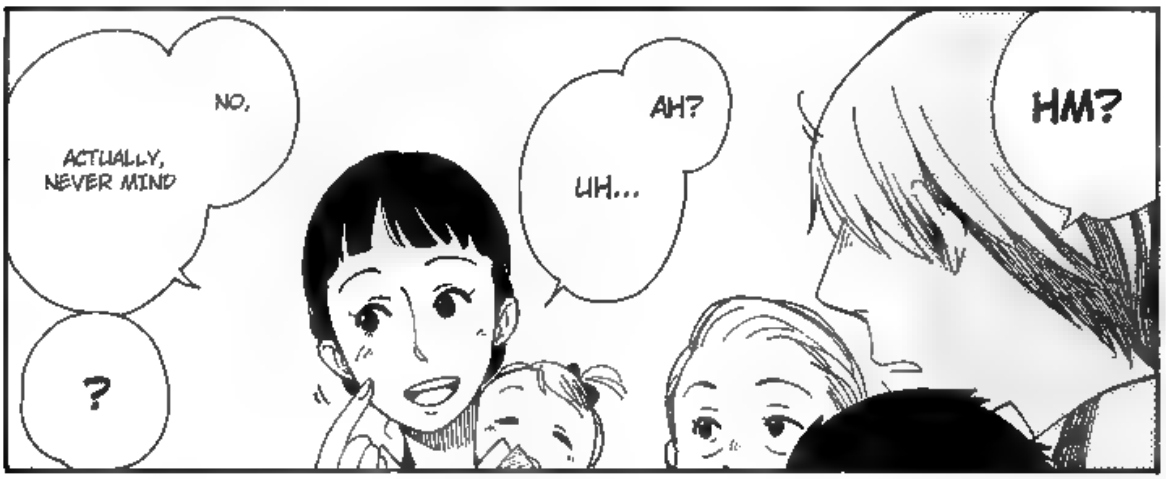
BUT I STILL HAVE TO DO MY JOB.
THERE ARE GOING TO BE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T PAY ATTENTION TO YOU.
SNIFF

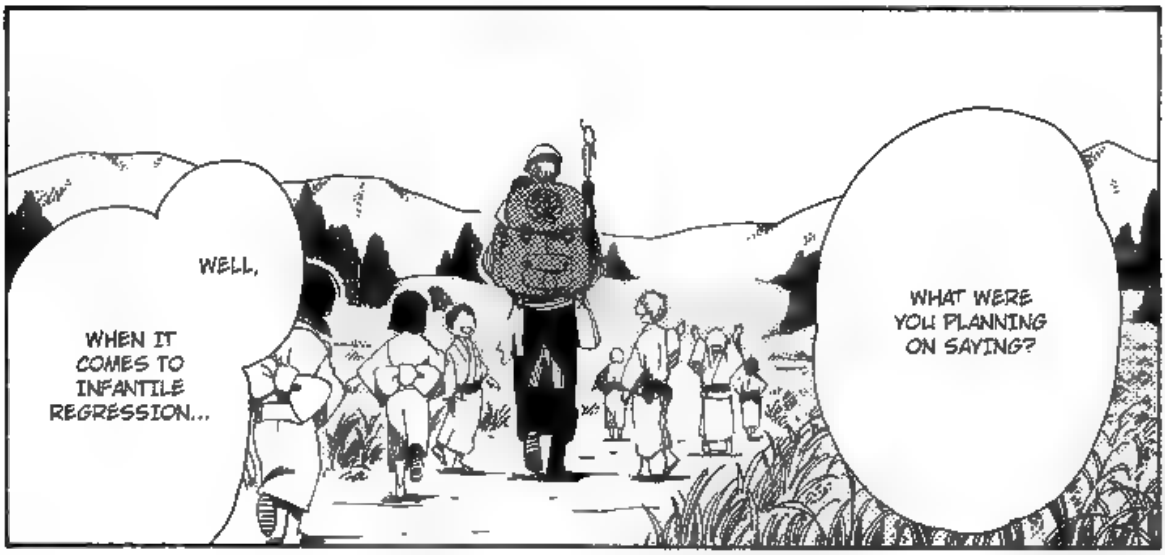
OKAY?
GO BACK TO BEING A FATHER WHO TRIES REALLY HARD NOT TO MAKE HIS SON SAD, SO...
I'LL QUICKLY

SO DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, OKAY?
PAT
UUH...
S... SORRY...
TCH...


HEE HEE
SHIYO.
DOESN'T HATE PAPA.
SNIFF


HEY! DON'T BE SO DAMN INFORMAL!
TORAKICHI, HURRY UP! OUR HOUSE IS NEXT, RIGHT?!
AH! YOU KNOW.
BOW
...
SEE YOU NEXT TIME, SHIROU!
IT'S OKAY.
I'M VERY SORRY FOR ALL THE FUSS.
EEEE!

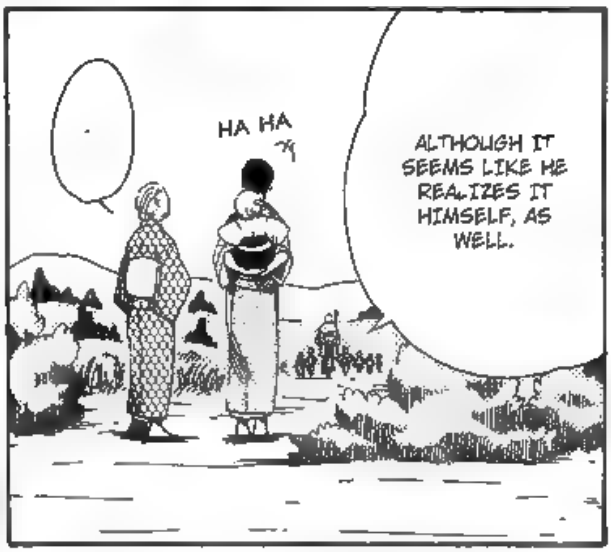

NO, ACTUALLY, NEVER MIND
?
AH?
UH...
HM?

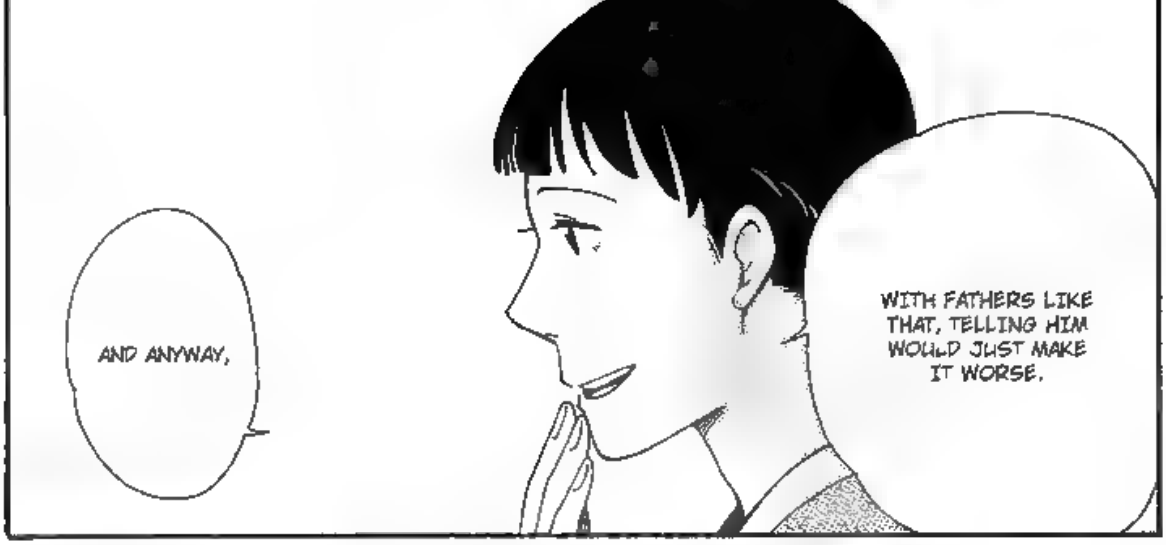

WELL,
WHEN IT COMES TO INFANTILE REGRESSION...
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON SAYING?

THE REAL CAUSE IS BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH HIS FATHER SPOILS HIM!

TORAKICHI SAID SHIROU WAS ACTING THIS WAY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A MOTHER
BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT .

YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE? THEY'LL BE FINE.
WHY ON EARTH WOULDN'T YOU TELL HIM SOMETHING LIKE THAT?


HA HA
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE HE REALIZES IT HIMSELF, AS WELL.


WITH FATHERS LIKE THAT, TELLING HIM WOULD JUST MAKE IT WORSE.
AND ANYWAY,

SO FAR AS CHILDREN ARE CONCERNED,
SIGH...
BEING ABLE TO LIVE AN EXISTENCE WHERE YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT IS A PRECIOUS THING.

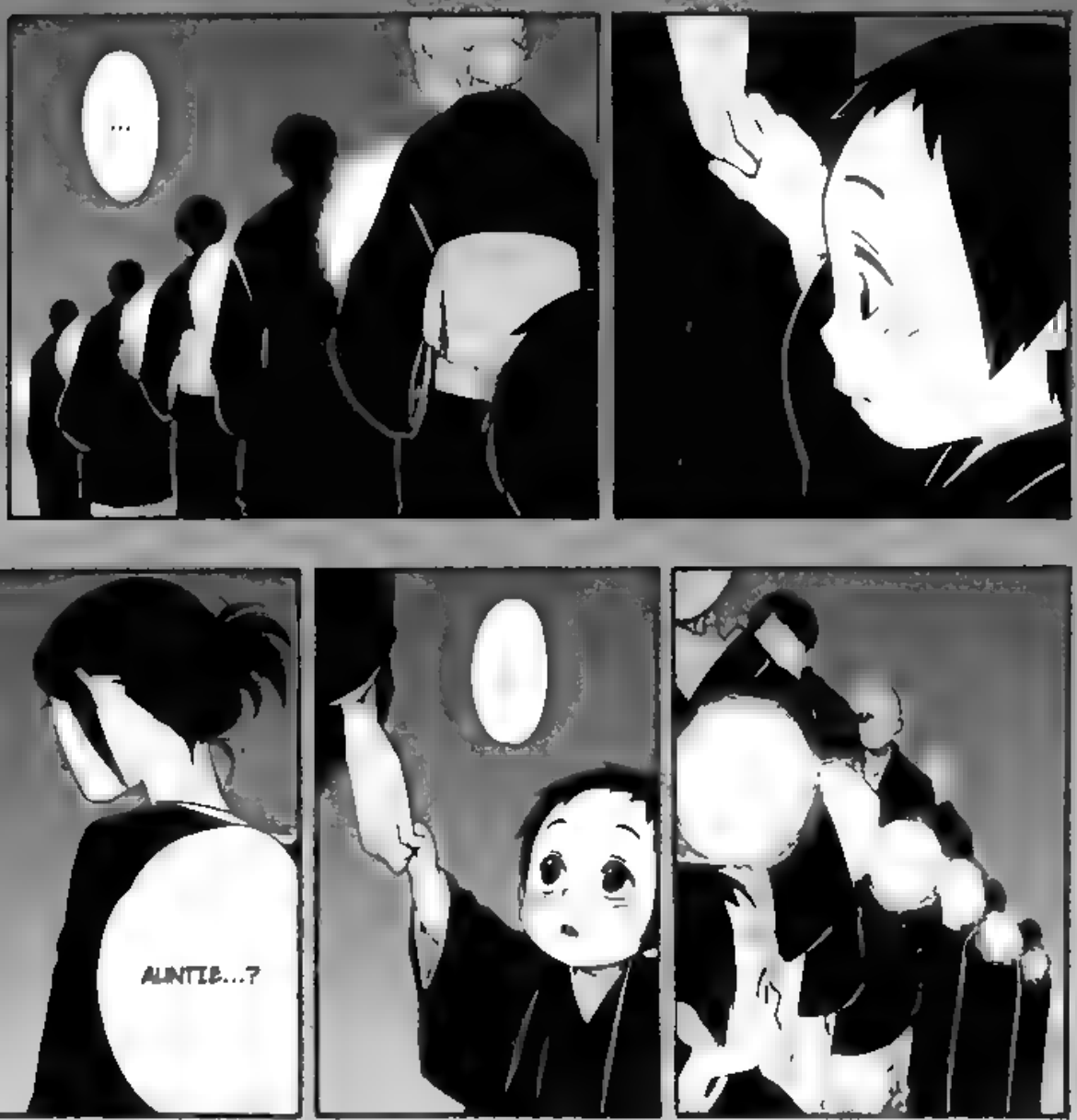
SHIROU WAS A LATE TALKER.
KANOEMON.
...
OR RATHER, UNTIL HE WAS TWO YEARS OLD, HE DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD.
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE HIS MOM PASSED AWAY SO SOON, HUH?
...
THEN, ONE DAY...
MY SISTER'S HUSBAND, WHO WAS CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO MEDICINE, STARTED TEACHING SHIROU THEIR NAMES.
THIS IS CROW-DIPPER.
HEY, HEY.

EXTRA STORY SIX – END

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 1:
SAD MEMORIES AND FRANK ADVICE



SHIROU
...
HEY, HEY.
WHERE'S PAPA?
YOUR FATHER ISN'T HERE ANY MORE.
YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU PROPERLY SAY GOODBYE, AS WELL.

?!
JOLT

YAWN...

WAAAA AAAAAA AAAAH!
SHIROU CLIMBED ON TOP OF ME WHILE CRYING.

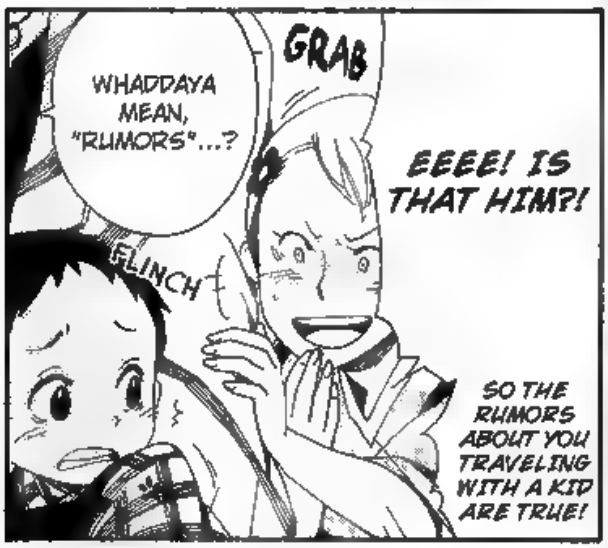
DID YOU SLEEP OKAY AFTER THAT?
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LAST NIGHT,
NOD

THUD
MY HEAD HURTS.
LAST NIGHT WAS THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW.
I WONDER IF HIS NIGHT CRYING IS COMING BACK...

HAVEN'T YOU GOTTEN A LOT SKINNIER?
OHHH? TORAKICHI...

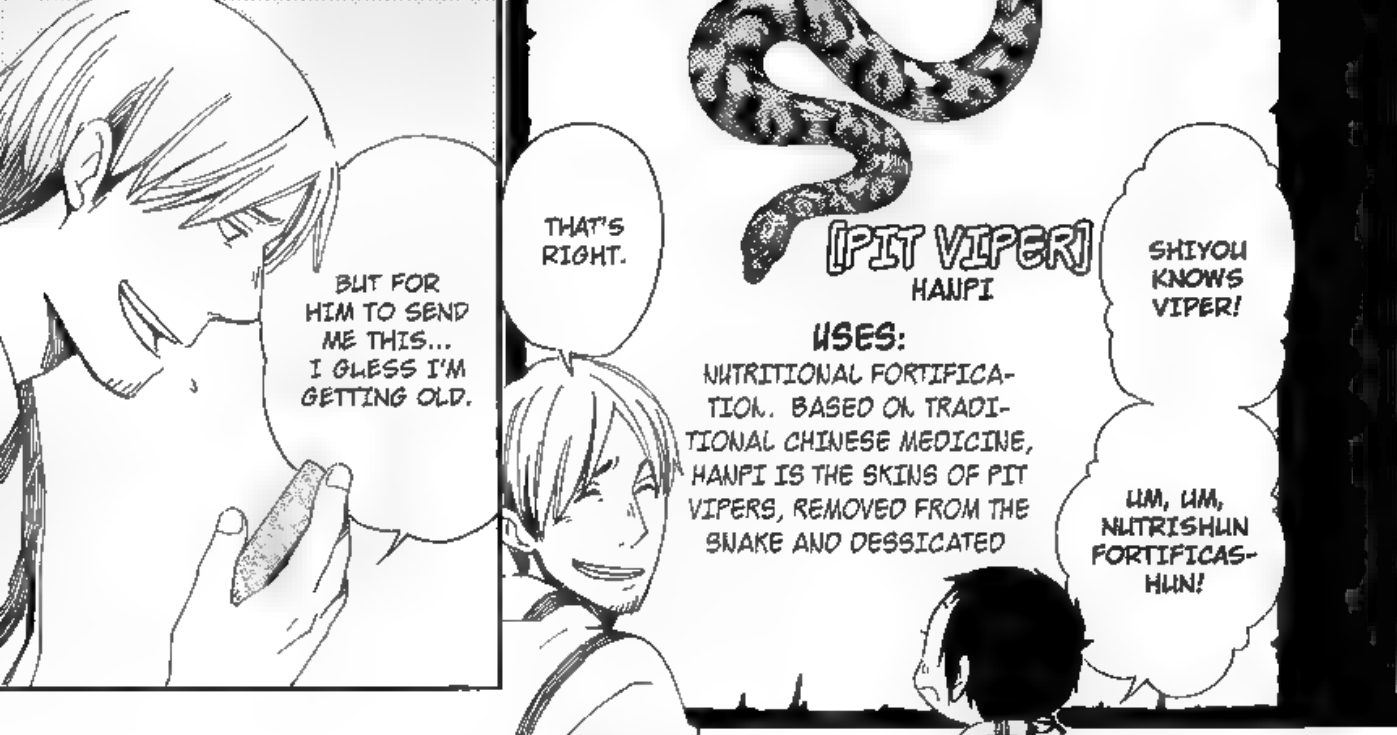
THE THINGS FROM NANAKU-SAYA? THEY DID...
W... WELL, MAYBE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, DID THEY DELIVER MY THINGS HERE?
AH!

HUH?

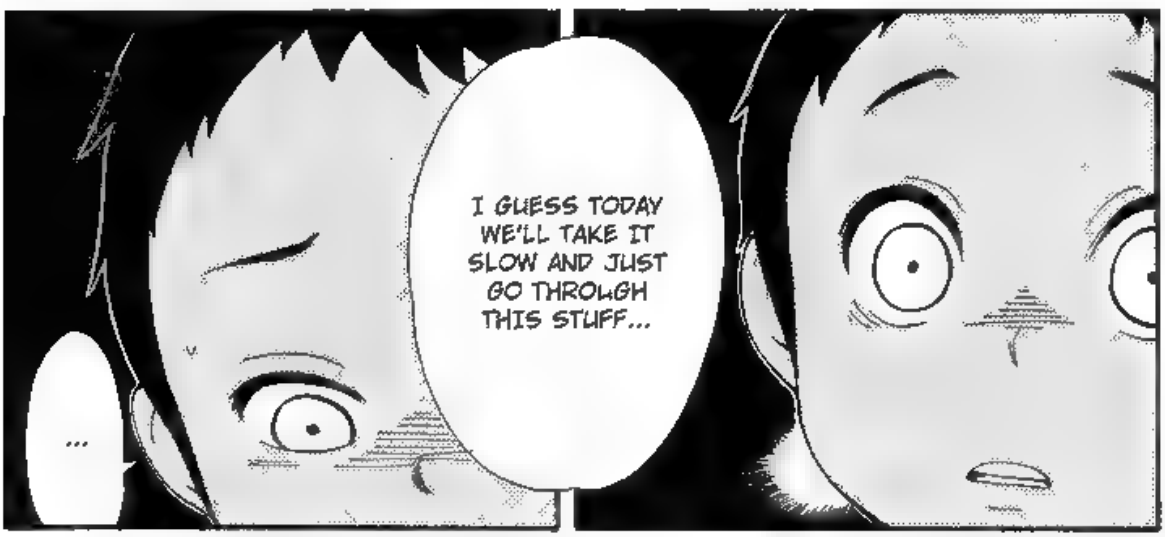

WHADDAYA MEAN, "RUMORS"...?
GRAB
FLINCH
EEEE! IS THAT HIM?!
SO THE RUMORS ABOUT YOU TRAVELING WITH A KID ARE TRUE!

I SENT OFF FOR ALL THIS.
LOTTA MEDISHIN.
WHY?
?
AH
THE LAST TIME WE STOPPED AT AN INN, I SENT BACK THERE ASKING THEM FOR MORE.
I'M RUNNING LOW ON SUPPLIES.
YOU REMEMBER THAT STORE WITH ALL THE MEDICINE, RIGHT?
SNORT
YOU...
WAS THE STORE WHERE THAT SHINY-SHINY MAN IS?!
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT. ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, SHE STILL HASN'T COME BACK YET...
YOU ASKED THEM WITH EEJI?
FLAP FLAP FLAP
HEY, HEY.

SOME NEW PRODUCT, I GUESS...
...IT SAYS.
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, TAKE THIS. IT'S REALLY EFFECTIVE.
!
READ IT, READ IT!
JUST AS YOU THOUGHT, THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE FROM THE SHINY-SHINY MAN.
THIS IS JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL HERBAL SUPPLEMENT.
AH, NO, NOT LIKE THAT.
?
HUH?
PAPA, YOU'RE SICK?!
WHAT KINDA MEDISHIN?!
GRAB
IT HAS PIT VIPER IN IT.
IF YOU TAKE THEM WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, YOU GET YOUR ENERGY BACK.
!


[PIT VIPER]
HANPI
USES:
NUTRITIONAL FORTIFICATION. BASED ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, HANPI IS THE SKINS OF PIT VIPERS, REMOVED FROM THE SNAKE AND DESSICATED
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIYOU KNOWS VIPER!
UM, UM, NUTRISHUN FORTIFICASHUN!
BUT FOR HIM TO SEND ME THIS... I GUESS I'M GETTING OLD.

I HAVE BEEN GETTING TIRED LATELY, BUT...
CRICK
AH, I GUESS THESE HEADACHES ARE FROM MY STIFF SHOULDERS, HUH?


I GUESS TODAY WE'LL TAKE IT SLOW AND JUST GO THROUGH THIS STUFF...
...

ONE WEEK PRIOR.
FLAP
HAS OUR FATHER AND SON PAIR BEEN GETTING ALONG WELL OVER THE PAST WEEK?
CAW.
WELL THEN, IEJI...
CAW.
...
WHAT?
HE'S BRINGING HIM UP THAT INDULGENTLY? WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT...
CAW.
HE'S ALWAYS SO DAMN STUBBORN!
CAW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T EVEN TAKE BON OFF.

SEND THESE ITEMS TO TORAKICHI.
HEY, SOUSUKE!
FLAP
YES, SIR!
YOU THINK THE BOSS CAN REALLY TALK TO THOSE BIRDS?
CAW
IT'S LONELY WHEN YOU GET TO BE HIS AGE, SO LET'S NOT BE TOO HARD ON HIM.
MUMBLE MUMBLE
YOU TOOK THE LONGEST BREAK THIS SUMMER. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SHAME?
WHAT IS IT? I'M BUSY!
TAP
CAW
FLAP
I SHOULD BE SETTING OFF MYSELF, HUH?
CHIHARU.
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO.
YOU'VE GOT THE LEAST FAR TO GO, SO UNTIL DUSK—
NO.
I HAVEN'T EVEN SAID ANYTHING YET!
CHIR CHIR CHIR

CHI-HARU!
DON'T GIVE ME MORE DULL WORK.
HE HASN'T COMPLAINED YET, SO JUST LEAVE ME BE.

I DON'T WANNA.
BECAUSE TORAKICHI'S TAKING HIS KID ALONG, YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME TO TAKE SOME OF HIS ROUTE SO IT'S LESS BURDENSOME, RIGHT?
WELL, IT'S THAT, THOUGH, RIGHT?

SAYING SUCH UNSINCERE THINGS... YOU WOULD DO WELL TO LEARN FROM TORAKICHI'S WORK ETHIC.
EVEN IF HE IS AN IDIOT

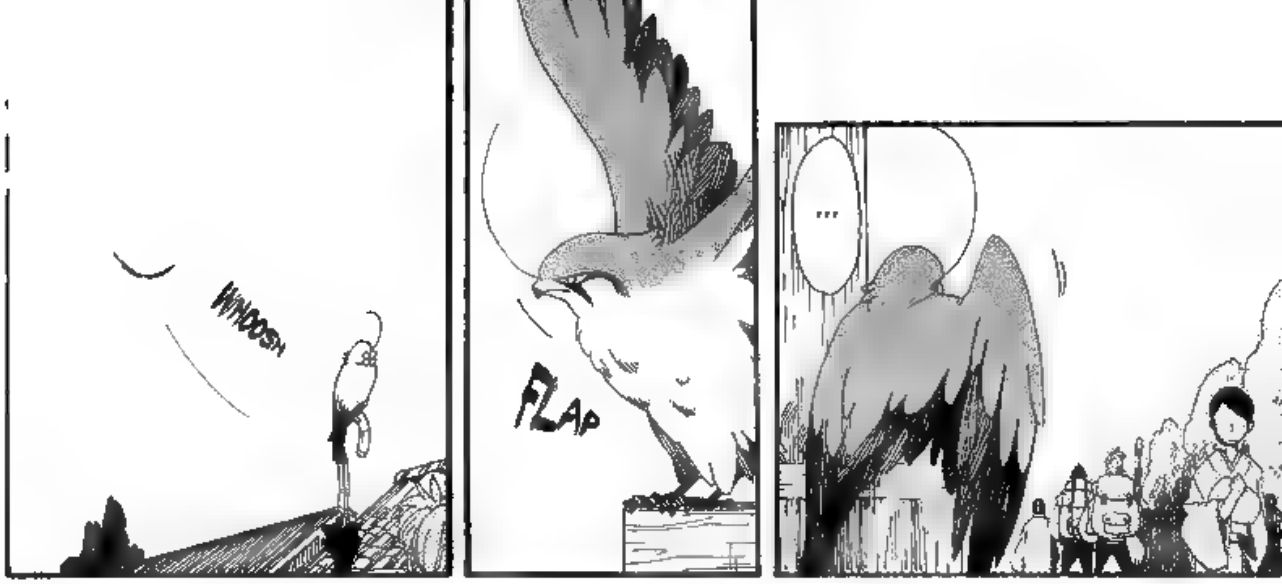
TORAKICHI, TORAKICHI.
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT.
YOU KNOW THAT?

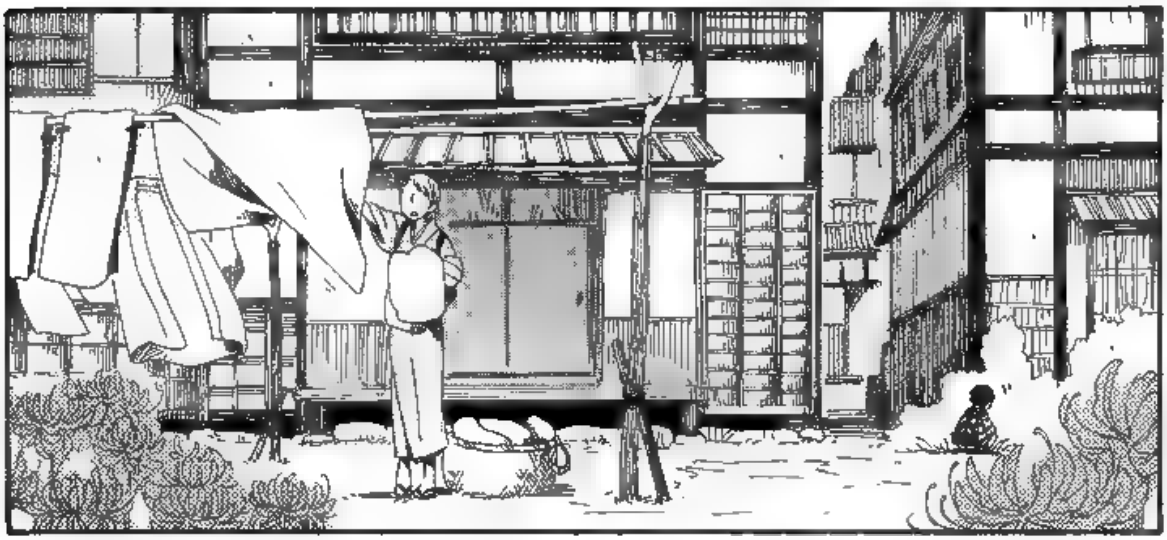
...
BY ALL RIGHTS YOU OUGHT TO BE JUMPING AT THE CHANCE TO HELP TORAKICHI BY...
YOU HAVE FEWER AND FEWER PLACES TO VISIT, AND EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SINGLE YOU DO LESS WORK THAN THE OTHERS.

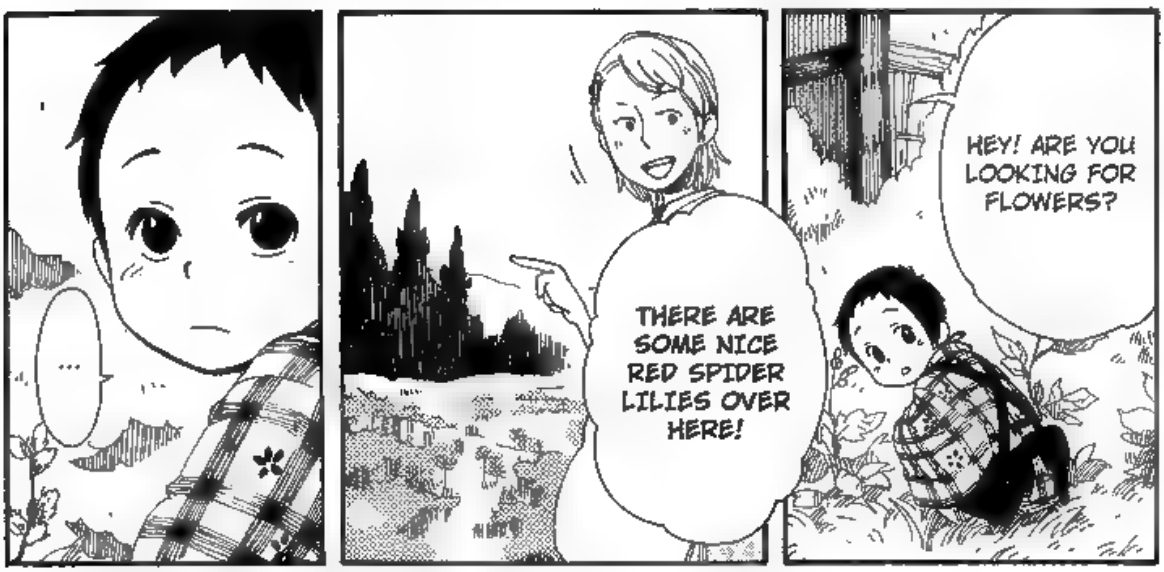
I BET YOU REALLY WISH HE WAS YOUR SON, DON'T YOU?
HUH?
YOU'VE ALWAYS TAKEN QUITE A SHINE TO HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
WELL, THAT'S NO SURPRISE.
BUT THAT KIND OF SENTIMENT IS SO BORING.
...
CAW
CAW
CAW
FLAP
CHIHARU, YOU WAIT A MINUTE!
LET'S GO, IRIYO!
SINCE HE'S SO MUCH BETTER THAN ME, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM FOR HELP?
FLAP
INARI, WHERE ARE YOU?!
CHIR CHIR CHIR
HON-ESTLY,
THAT IDIOT SON OF MINE...

HEY, YOU LAY-ABOUT SON OVER THERE.
TCH
THAT DAMN BALDY.
YOU GONNA HELP OUT TORAKICHI?
HEY, CHIHARU, YOU GONNA DO IT?
CHEW CHEW
FLAP
I GOT MY SUPERNATURAL CREATURES MIXED UP.
AH, SORRY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OHH, IT'S YOU, YUJIRO. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE BEING NOISY.

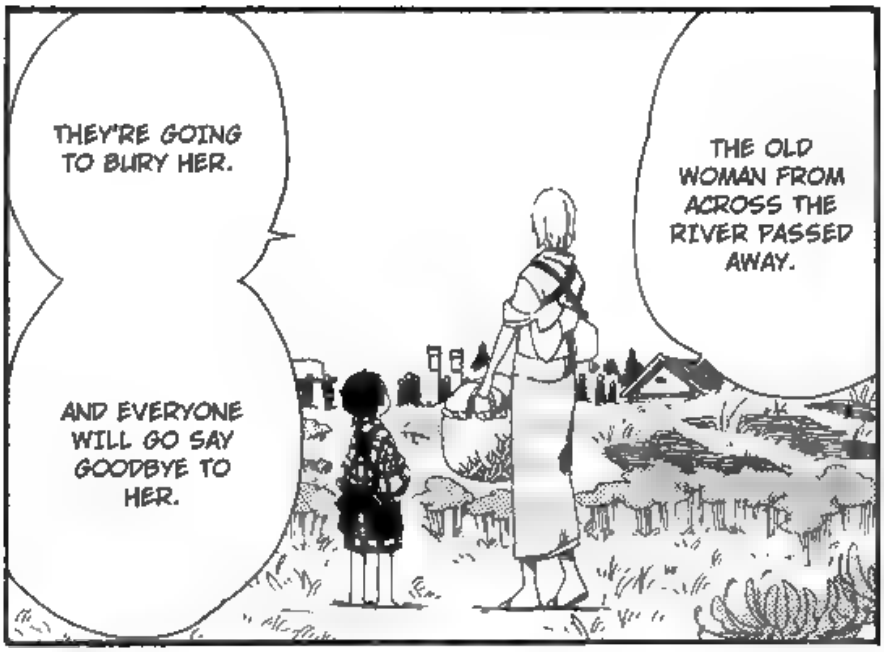
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
HUH?!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THE OLD MAN'S GONNA DISOWN YOU.
NOT A CHANCE. IT'D BE SUCH A PAIN.
GO AHEAD AND TELL HIM.
SIGH.
I'M GONNA HELP HIM NOW SO THAT I CAN GET PART OF HIS PROPSERITY.
BUT NOT TO "HELP HIM" OR ANYTHING LAME LIKE THAT.
I'LL DEFINITELY TAKE BACK MY HOME PROVINCE FROM HIM!
AND TAKING YOUR KID ON BUSINESS TRAVEL? WHAT A JOKE!
EVEN THOUGH I BRING IN THE MOST MONEY, HE GETS ALL THE GOOD CUSTOMERS.
THAT'S TRUE, HUH?


WHOOSH
FLAP
...



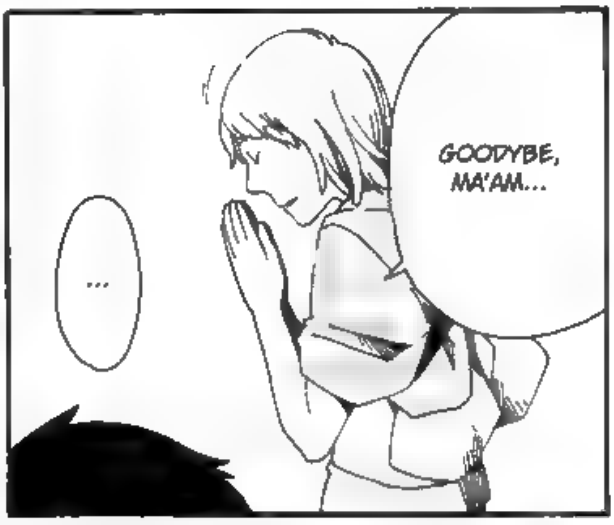

...
THERE ARE SOME NICE RED SPIDER LILIES OVER HERE!
HEY! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FLOWERS?

AH, ACTUALLY, I THINK I DO REMEMBER MY GRAND-MOTHER SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
RED SPIDER LILIES ARE POISONOUS.
CAN'T USE FOR HEADACHE MEDISHIN.
HUH,
THEY'RE POISON-OUS?!
...

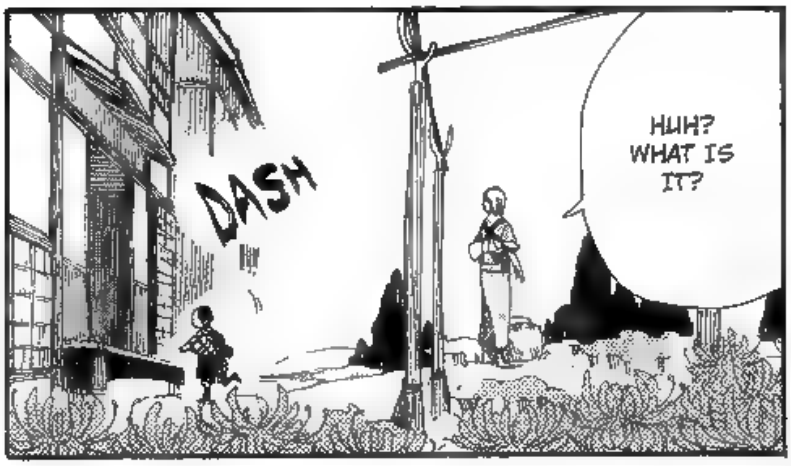

THEY'RE GOING TO BURY HER.
AND EVERYONE WILL GO SAY GOODBYE TO HER.
THE OLD WOMAN FROM ACROSS THE RIVER PASSED AWAY.

AH...
GLANCE

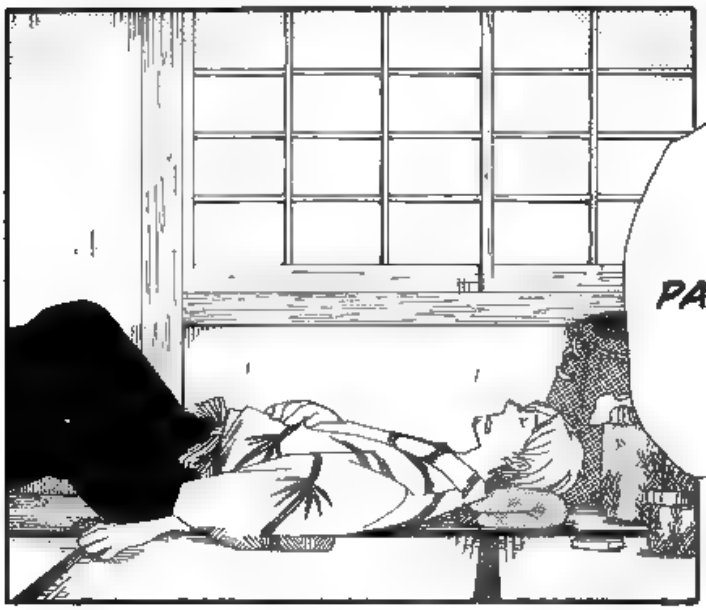
SHIROU
...


...
GOODYBE, MA'AM...

SHIVER
YOU NEED TO SAY YOUR GOODBYES PROPERLY, TOO...


DASH
HUH? WHAT IS IT?

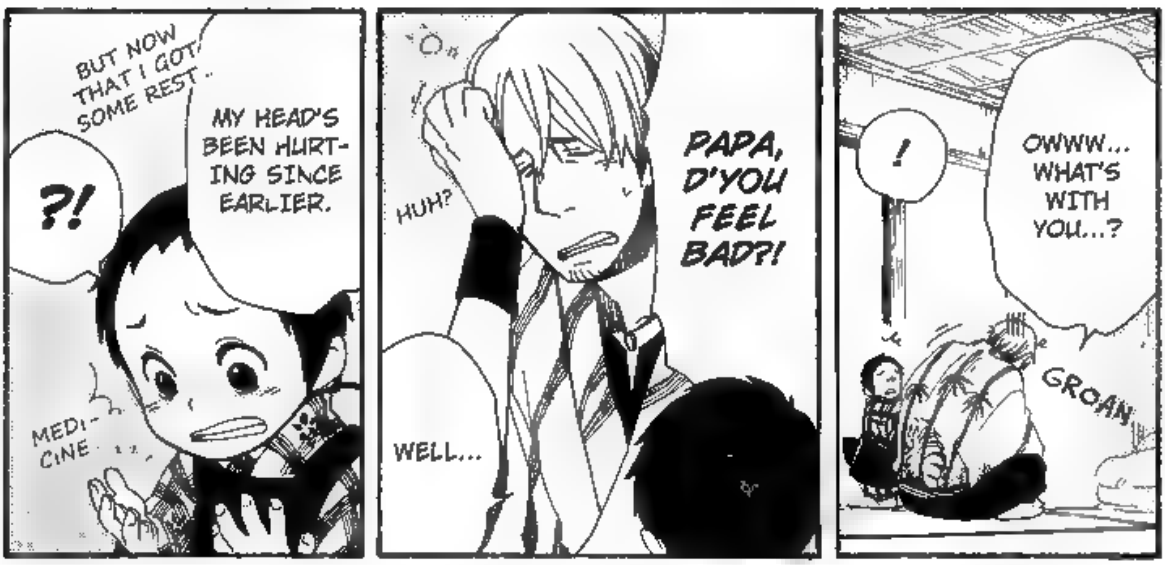
RUSTLE



SLAM
PAPA!!

?!

WHAM!
GUH.
PA-PAA-AA!


BUT NOW THAT I GOT SOME REST.
MY HEAD'S BEEN HURTING SINCE EARLIER.
?!
MEDICINE
"O"
HUH?
PAPA, D'YOU FEEL BAD?!
WELL...
!
OWWW... WHAT'S WITH YOU...?
GROAN

I'M SCARED!
NOOOO!
GRAB

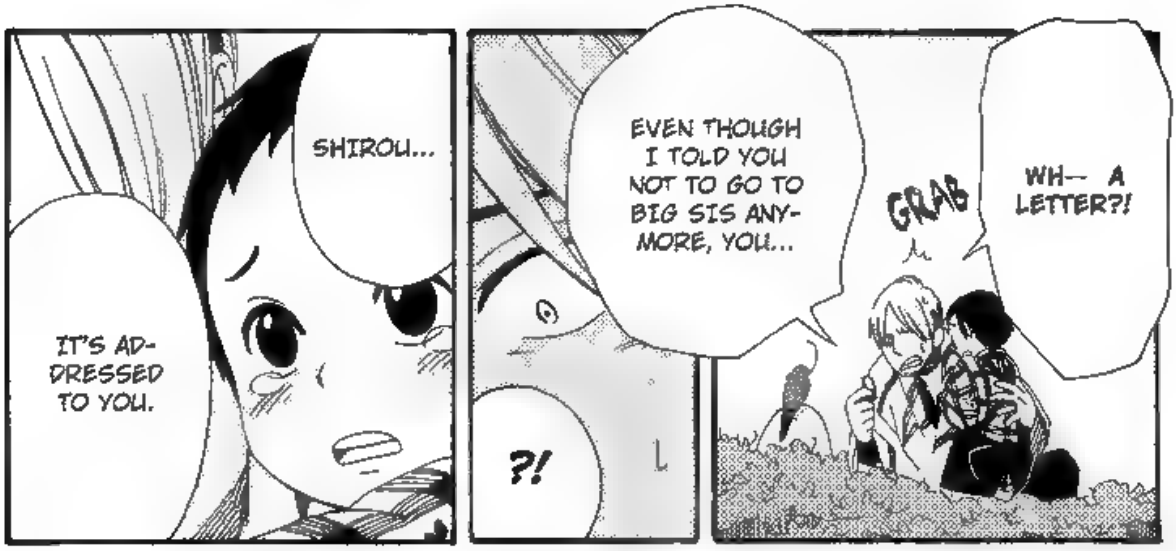
[FOOTNOTE: MAMA* - HE MEANS A JIZO STATUE. SEE CHAPTER 1 OF THE SERIES.]

DID YOU HAVE A BAD DREAM?
...
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, YOU WERE CRYING AND SAYING YOU WERE SCARED LAST NIGHT, TOO.
GUESS WE DON'T REALLY NEED TO.
THEY'RE ALREADY BLOOMING ALL AROUND HER.
...
WANNA TELL YOUR PAPA?
NO! SCARY!
WHAT KIND OF DREAM?
...BYE-BYE.
HM?
THEN...
SHAKE SHAKE
...
...YOU MISS YOUR MAMA AGAIN, IS THAT IT?

AUNTIE TOLD SHIYO TO SAY BYE-BYE TOO.
BUT I JUST CRIED THE WHOLE TIME...
!
UM, EVERYONE SAID BYE-BYE TO MAMA...
BYE-BYE IS SCARY.
IF I HAD TO SAY BYE-BYE TO PAPA TOO, JUST LIKE MAMA...
GRIP
IT'S SCARY...
...HEY.

LOOK HOW HEALTHY AND ENERGETIC I AM.
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!
I'M SCARED...
PAPA, YOU SAID YOU WERE TIRED,
AND THAT YOUR HEAD HURT...
THIS IS... MY FAULT.
WHY... ALL OF A SUDDEN...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT, SILLY!
GRAB

WHY...
WHY DO I ALWAYS MAKE YOU CRY, OVER AND OVER AGAIN...?
I'VE MADE HIM FEEL BAD AGAIN...
FLAP
...
OOW-WWW-WWW.
WHACK
GEH.
HMPF
THRUST
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, ANYWAY? I WAS JUST THINKING IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU...
...
RUSTLE
IEJI, YOU...!!


SHIROU...
IT'S ADDRESSED TO YOU.
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO TO BIG SIS ANYMORE, YOU...
?!
GRAB
WH— A LETTER?!

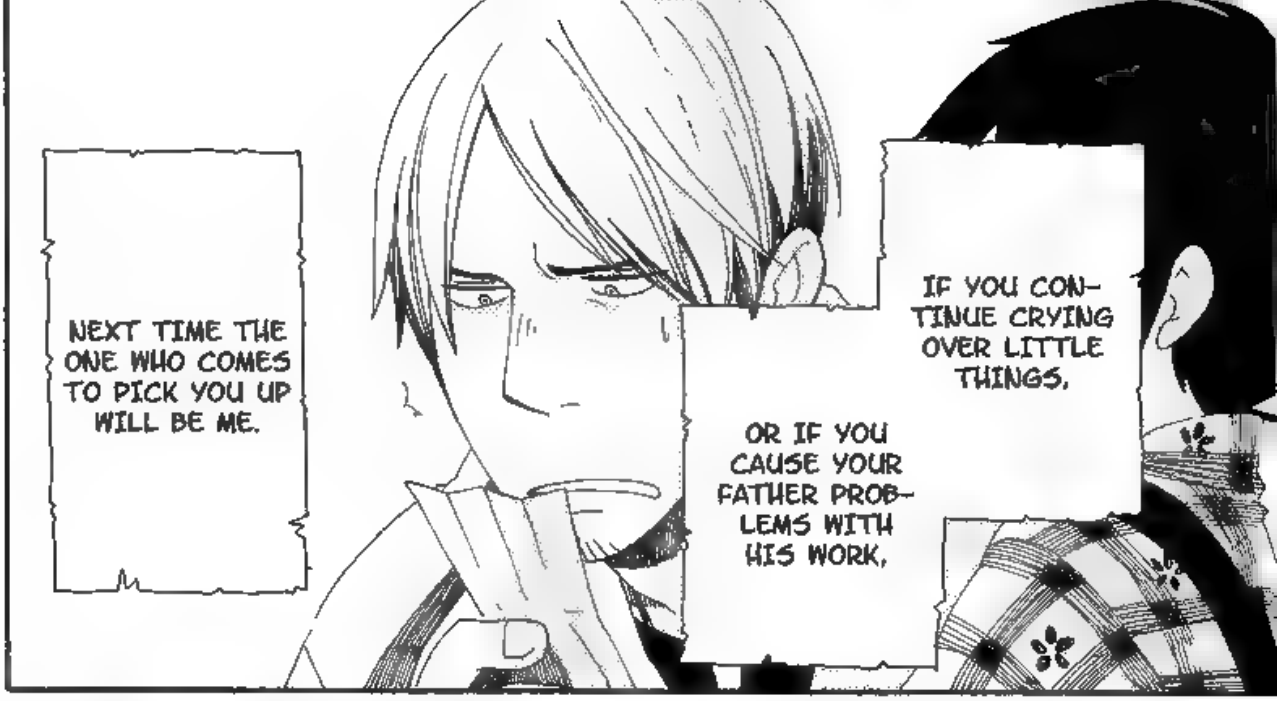
NOD
...

?
IT'S FROM AUNTIE.
AUNTIE...?

WELL, SHALL WE READ IT?
I BET SHE'S GONNA TO SCOLD ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED OVER BON. BUT WHY ADDRESS IT TO SHIROU?
THUMP
THUMP

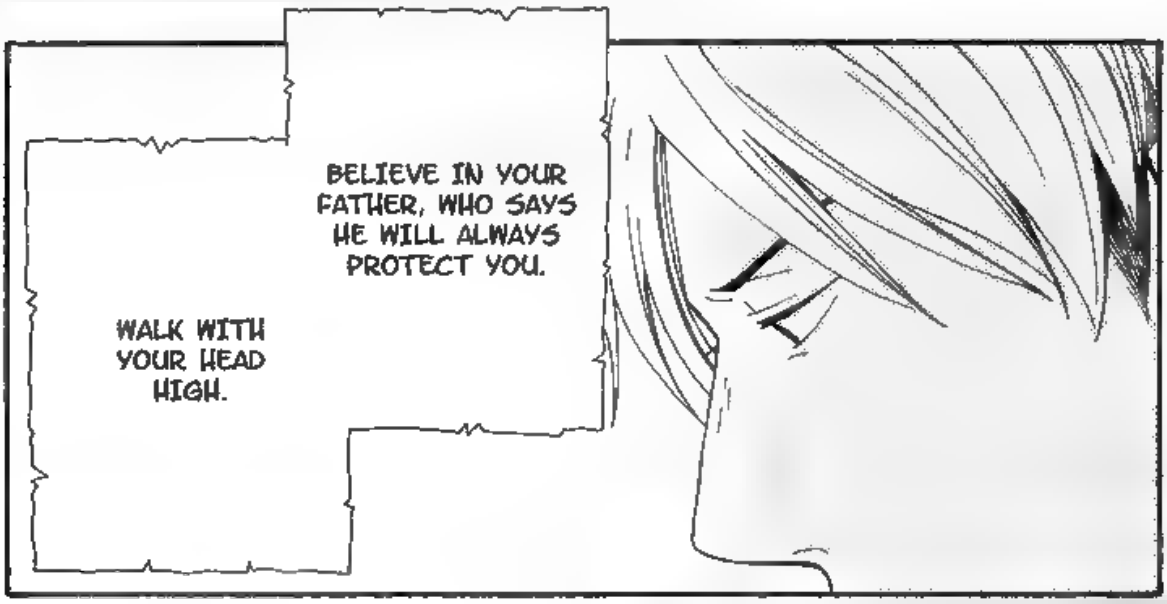
RUSTLE

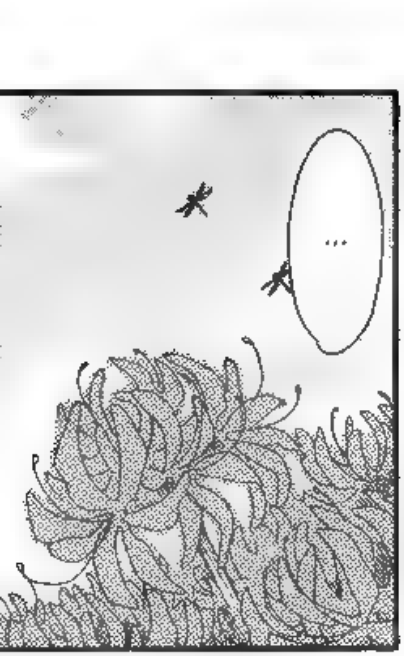
DEAR SHIROU,
I HEARD FROM KANOE WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CRYING SINCE THEN, HAVE YOU?
I...
HEARD THAT YOU DECIDED NOT TO RETURN HOME BY YOURSELF.
I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
HOWEVER,
SINCE YOU HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOUR FATHER FOR HIS WORK,
YOU TOO NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.


IF YOU CONTINUE CRYING OVER LITTLE THINGS,
OR IF YOU CAUSE YOUR FATHER PROBLEMS WITH HIS WORK,
NEXT TIME THE ONE WHO COMES TO PICK YOU UP WILL BE ME.

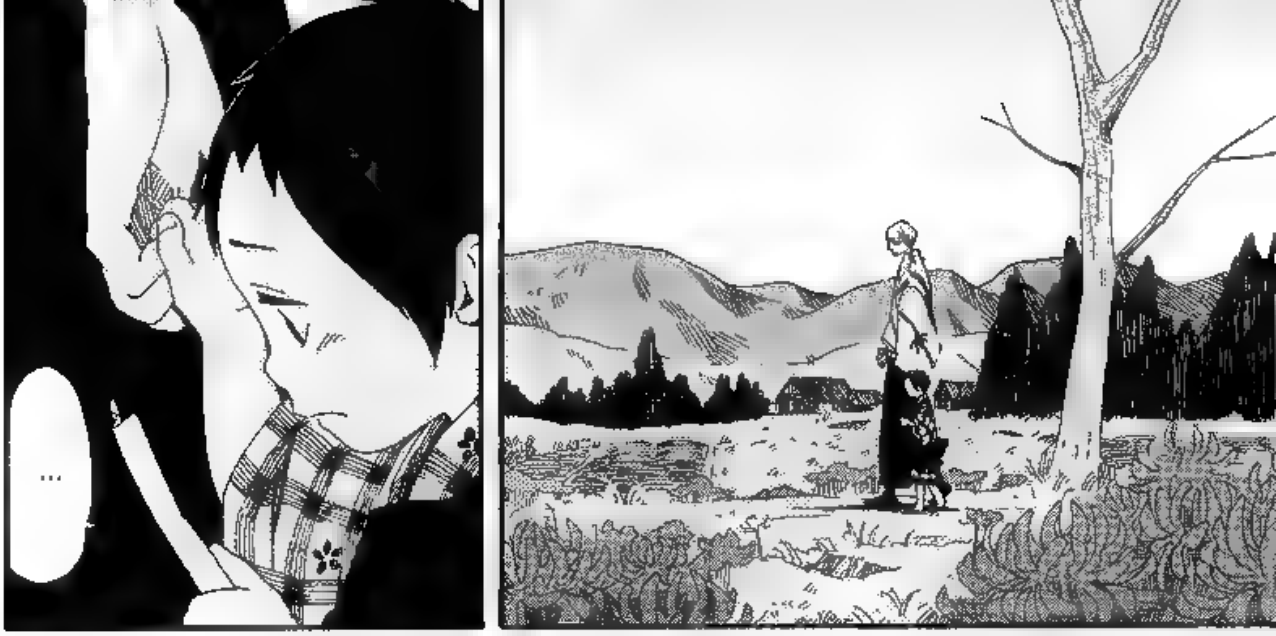
AFTER ALL, YOUR FATHER AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES YOU CAN RELY ON AT JOURNEY'S END.
PLEASE TAKE CARE TO ACT MATURE, AND NOT SPOILED.
YOU'RE NOT A BABY ANYMORE, TO CRY FROM LONELINESS LIKE YOU DID WHEN YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU SHOULD FEAR ANY MORE.


BELIEVE IN YOUR FATHER, WHO SAYS HE WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU.
WALK WITH YOUR HEAD HIGH.


...

IF THINGS GET TOO HARD, COME HOME.
PLEASE TELL THAT LAST PART TO YOUR FATHER, AS WELL.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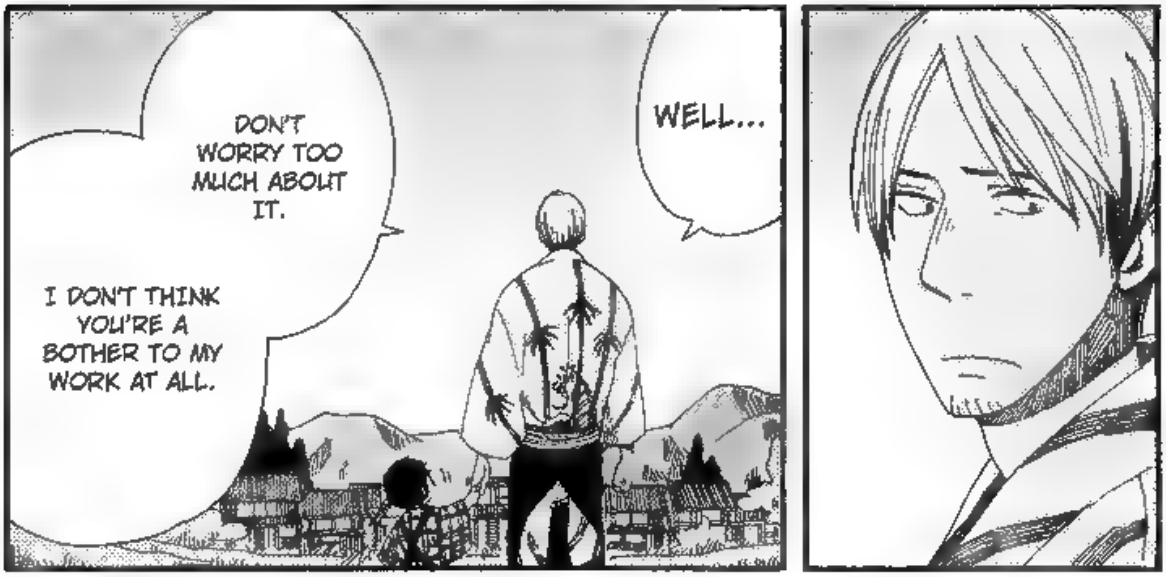
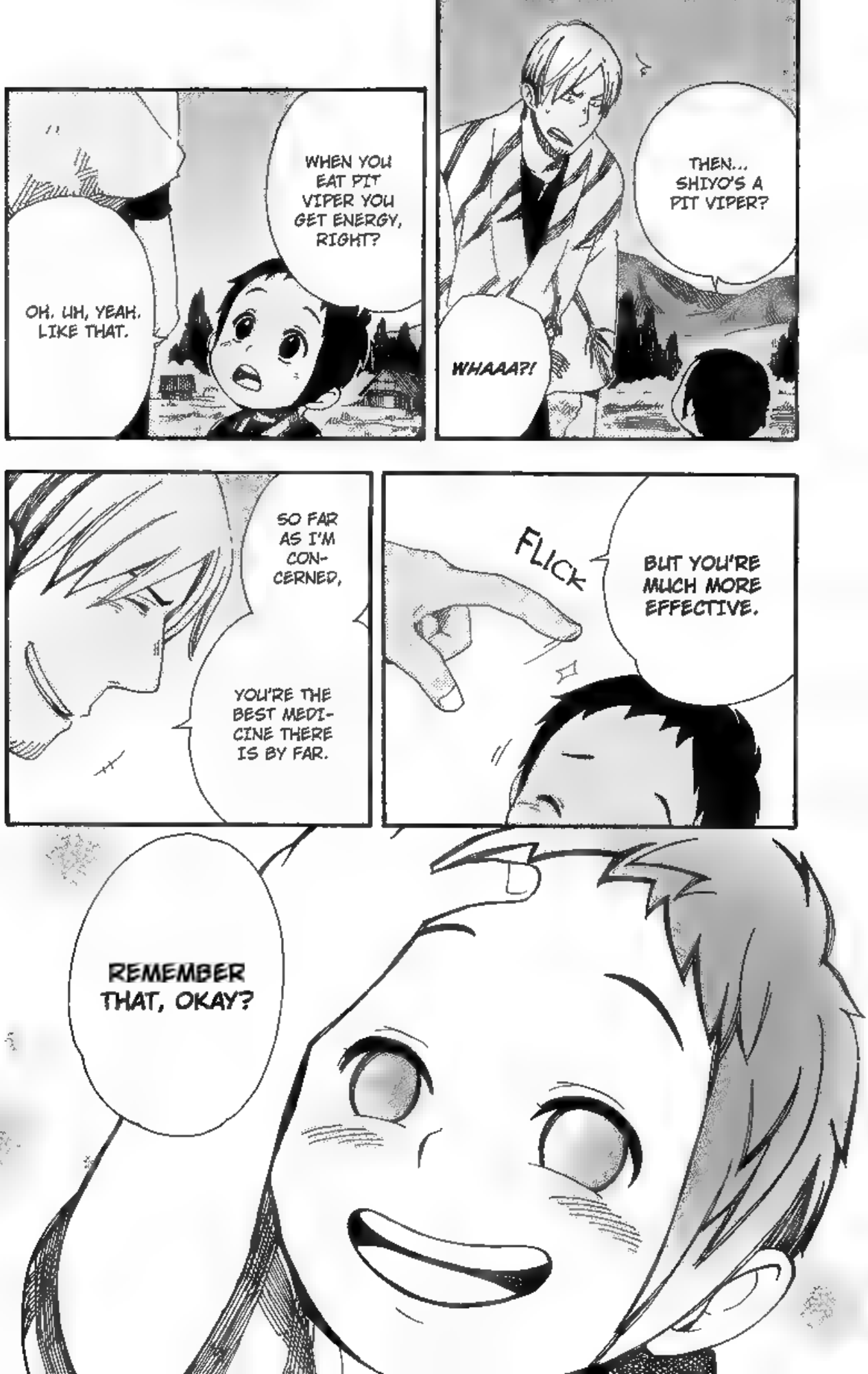

DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A BOTHER TO MY WORK AT ALL.
WELL...

REACH
THERE IS ONE THING ON WHICH MY SISTER AND I AGREE.
BUT...
...

AND IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO ACT A LITTLE SPOILED AND SELFISH.

DON'T WORRY.
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
TICKLE
AAAH!
YOU'RE ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS CRYING! DO YOU HAVE TO CRY EVERY TIME I DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT, YOU LITTLE CRYBABY!?
I'LL BE ABLE TO TRY MY BEST AND KEEP WORK-ING HARD. I'LL BE FINE.
SO LONG AS I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE,


WHEN YOU EAT PIT VIPER YOU GET ENERGY, RIGHT?
OH. UH, YEAH. LIKE THAT.
THEN... SHIYO'S A PIT VIPER?
WHAAA?!
SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
YOU'RE THE BEST MEDICINE THERE IS BY FAR.
FLICK
BUT YOU'RE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE.
REMEMBER THAT, OKAY?

WAIT! THAT'S NO FAIR!
I'LL RACE YOU TO THE INN!
AH!
DASH
PAPA, WAIT!
HA HA HA
YOU'RE SO SLOOOW
SHIROU IS THE BIGGEST CRY-BABY I KNOW.
HE NEEDS TO LEARN TO RELY ON HIMSELF INSTEAD OF GETTING SPOILED.

HE'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT
BUT YOU KNOW HOW TORA IS
SINCE I'M HERE I CAN'T DO ANY-THING OTHER THAN MEDDLE FROM AFAR
SORRY, IEJI
I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE CARE OF THOSE TWO UP TO YOU

AT LONG LAST,
KANOE, WHO I SENT TO FIND MY YOUNGER BROTHER DURING BON,
NONCHALANTLY RETURNED HOME.
HEH HEH
AS USUAL, AFTER HE GAVE HIS REPORT,
"WHY NOT JUST LEAVE THEM BE?"
KANOE HAD ONE MORE THING TO SAY.
WHAT A JOKE.

EXTRA STORY SEVEN - END

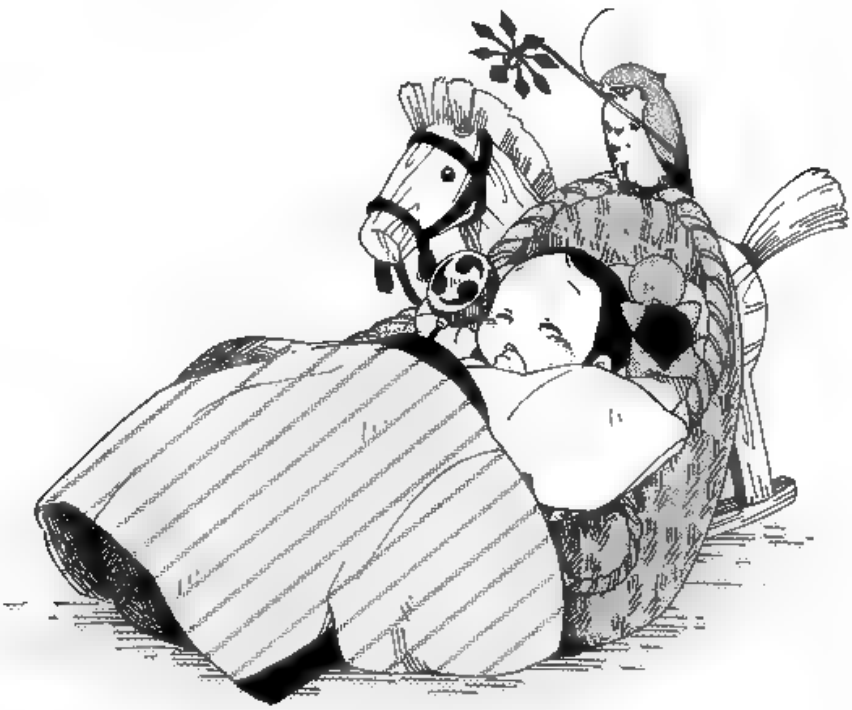
"HUNDRED DAY VISIT"- TRADITION DICTATES A VISIT TO A SHINTO SHRINE WHEN A NEW CHILD IS THIRTY DAYS OLD TO GUARANTEE ITS WELL-BEING. IT IS ALSO A POPULAR CUSTOM TO VISIT AT 100 DAYS FOR THE SAME REASON.
AND HERE'S THE KIMONO HATSUMI SEWED HIM FOR HIS "HUNDRED DAY VISIT"!*
THIS IS THE INSECT CHARM* KANOE BOUGHT!
AND THIS IS A DOLL FOR HIS FIRST ANNUAL FESTIVAL.
"INSECT CHARM" -- TRADITIONALLY, CERTAIN INSECTS WERE BELIEVED TO CAUSE DISEASE OR COLIC; THIS CHARM IS INTENDED TO KEEP THOSE INSECTS AWAY.
NOTHIN'. WHY?
SO, WHAT DID YOU BRING?!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
AH...
SHIROU GOT ALL THESE GIFTS JUST FOR HIS SAFE BIRTH!
AND SO, JUST AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT HOME, THE COUPLE RESUMED THEIR CUSTOM OF ARGUING.
GRR...

BACK THEN...

I NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING I DID WAS PARTICULARLY WRONG.

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 9:
CELEBRATION AND A LUCKY CHARM

SIGN: UDON

*"KITSUNE UDON" UDON WITH SLICES OF DEEP FRIED TOFU ON TOP.

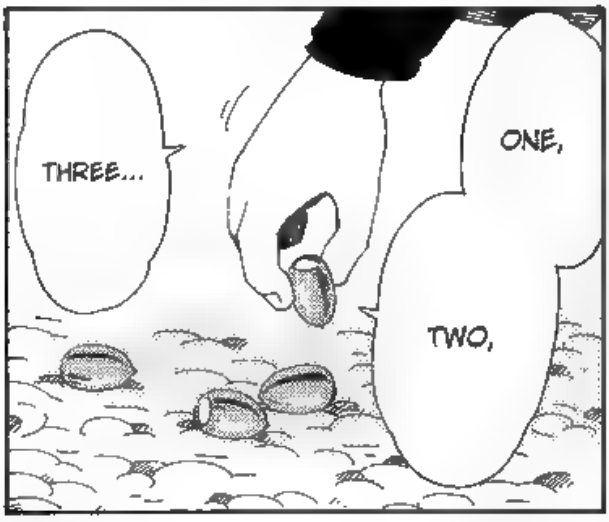
...
CLAP
CLAP
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

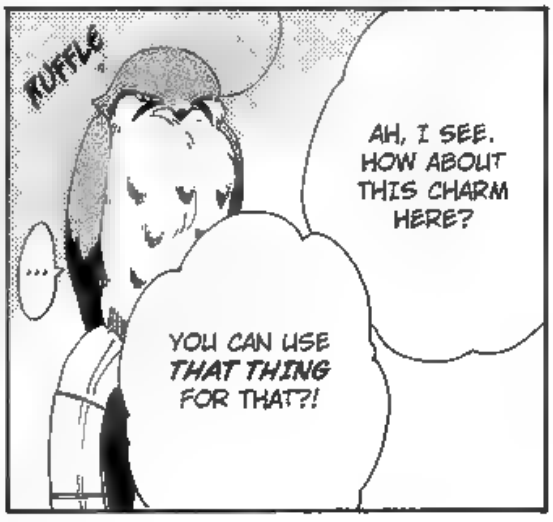
CLAP
SQUEEZE

AH,
ACORNS!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.

THAT'S A SECRET.
PAPA! DID YOU ASK FOR SOMETHING?

CHARMS: GOOD LUCK

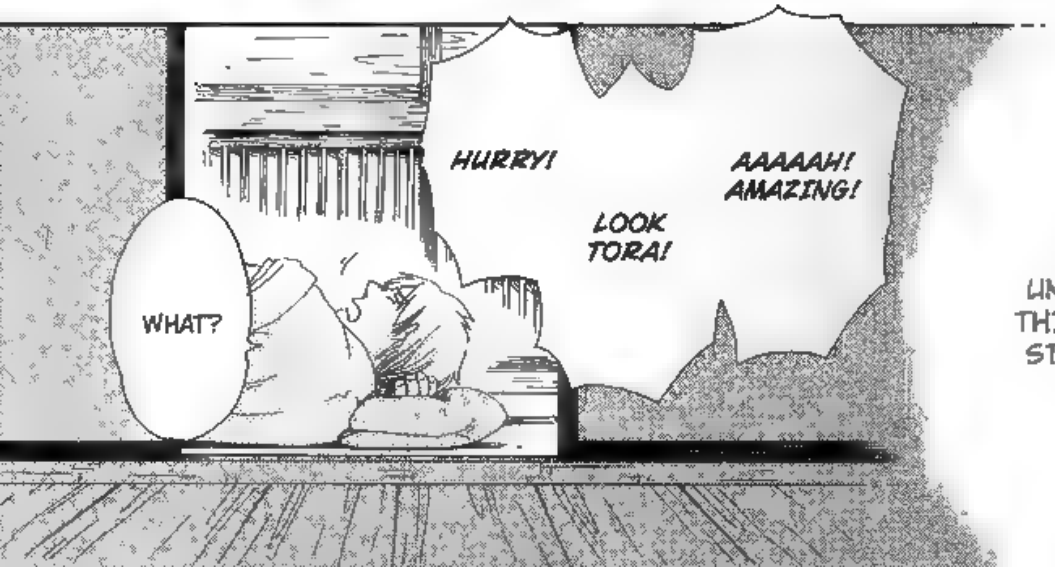




HA HA HA HA!
HMMPH
FOUR IS WHAT COMES AFTER THREE, LITTLE BOY!
HEE HEE
...
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
SHIYO WILL COUNT THEM RIGHT!
LISTEN!
DON'T LAUGH, PAPA!
NOT FUNNY!
AHA HA
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE UPSET.
THREE!
TWO!
ONE!

NOW, TIME FOR ME TO GET OUT, I THINK.
SEVEN, EIGHT,
FOUR,
FIVE, SIX,
NINE,
TEN.
UMM..
THREE...
FLOAT FLOAT
AW, CRAP.
HE'S GONNA CRY.
...NNN!
SNIFF
SHOCK
DON'T STAY IN TOO LONG, KIDDO!
SPLASH
AH, HERE IT IS!
I THOUGHT I SAW...
...A LEAF?
SPLASH
?
AH.
SHIROU, WHAT'S THIS?

YOU CAN MAKE A REALLY GOOD MEDICATED BATH FOR JOINT PAIN AND COLDS AND STUFF WITH THIS.
[LAURUS NOBILIS]
BAY LAUREL
USES:
NERVE PAIN; RHEUMATISM
BAY LAUREL!
IT'S A BAY LAUREL LEAF.
IT'S REALLY POPULAR THESE DAYS FOR THOSE WITH VARIOUS PAINS.
HE'S GOT PLENTY OF REPEAT CUSTOMERS NOW.
LAST TIME I WAS HERE, I SUGGESTED THAT THE OWNER PUT THEM IN THE BATH TO ATTRACT MORE CUSTOMERS.
THIS HOT SPRING HOUSE HAS PLENTY OF BIG LAUREL TREES ON ITS GROUNDS.
月桂樹風呂
肩コリニ効ク！
ツライ
?!
SIGN 2: BAY LAUREL BATH
SIGN 1: LOOSEN UP YOUR STIFF SHOULDERS!
SHUVE
YEAH!
YOU WANNA COUNT HOW MANY OF THESE BAY LAUREL LEAVES ARE IN THE BATH?
SO, SHIROU...
WELL... ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HERE.
SPLISH



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THIS KIND OF STUFF WELL.

WAAAH!
SHIROU ...
SHIROU STOOD UP ALL BY HIMSELF!
FLUMP
IS THAT ALL?
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THAT?
YOU JERK!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO DAMN NOISY ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING? I JUST GOT HOME YESTERDAY. I'M TIRED, DAMNIT...
ROLL
YOU OUGHTA BE A LITTLE MORE HAPPY!
IT'S HIS FIRST TIME, RIGHT?!
IT'S AMAZING, I SAID!
AH! THAT REMINDS ME, SHIROU'S FIRST BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP SOON.
AA-AH!
IT'S A GOOD THING, HUH!
PAPA SHOULD BE CONGRATU-LATING YOU, SHIYO!

EVEN IF I SAID "YEAH YEAH,"

OR EVEN IF I TOUCHED HIM,

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A THING, DOES HE?!

TCH.

HA HA

IT'S TOO BAD YOUR PAPA WILL HAVE TO WORK, HUH?

HE SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING, SHOULDN'T HE?!

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SHIROU'S DAILY LIFE.

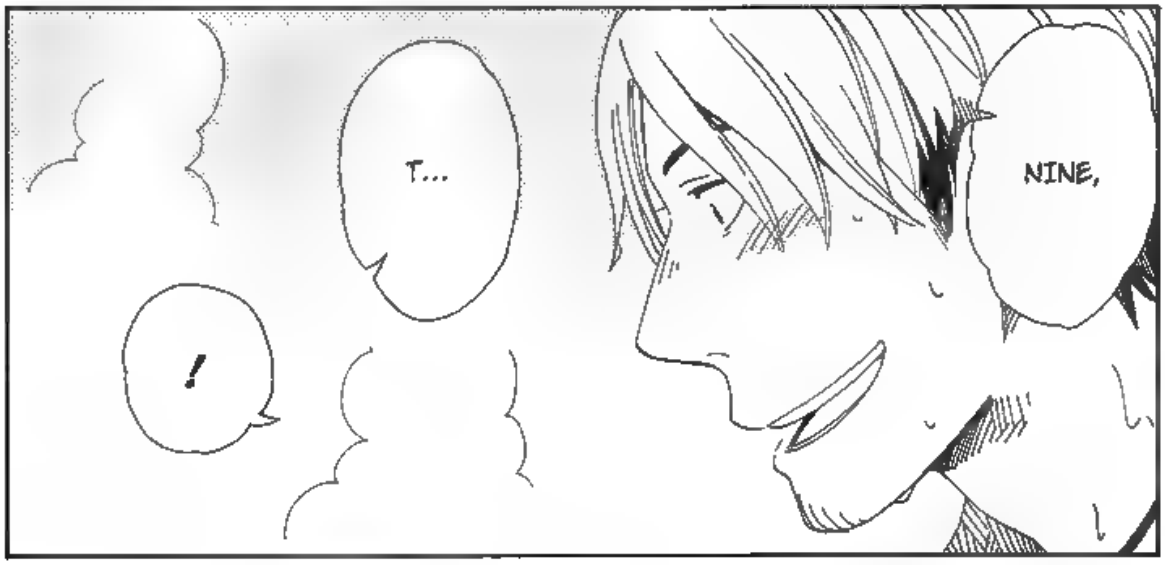
I HADN'T WITNESSED A SINGLE SECOND OF HIS GROWING UP.

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT MY WIFE WAS SUCH AN IDIOT FOR GETTING SO HAPPY...

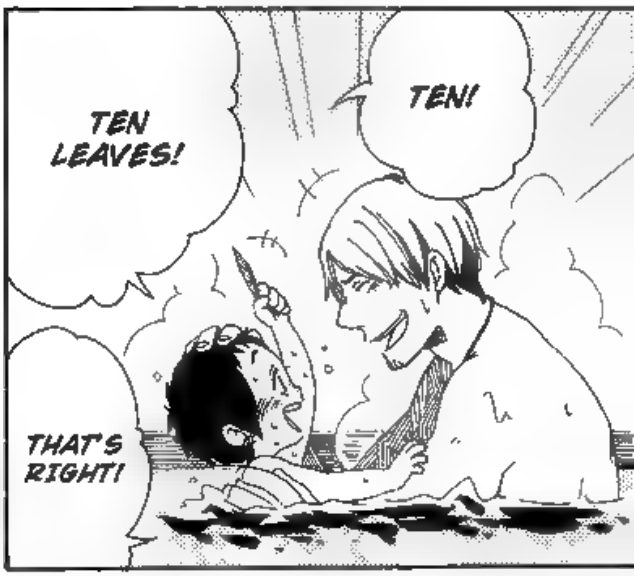
FOUR,

FIVE...

UM...
EIGHT...
SEVEN,
UM
SIX,
BUT NOW...


!
T...
NINE,

YEAH!
SHIYO DID IT RIGHT, DIDN'T HE?!
YOU DID IT! GREAT JOB!


TEN!
TEN LEAVES!
THAT'S RIGHT!

OUR SON IS GROWING UP.
I'M SO HAPPY AND PROUD.
I'M SORRY, SHIORI.
AAAH!
?!
GLUB GLUB
PA.
LISTEN, TO ME, OKAY, PA...
SPLOOSH
SHIYO'S GONNA DO IT AGAIN!

SIGH
...
RATTLE
AH, WHAT'S THIS? YOUR FACE IS ALL FLUSHED!
QUICKLY, GET OUT! WE NEED SOME COLD WATER! COLD WATER!
STAGGER STAGGER
...
SPLASH
AAAAAAAH! SHIROUUU!

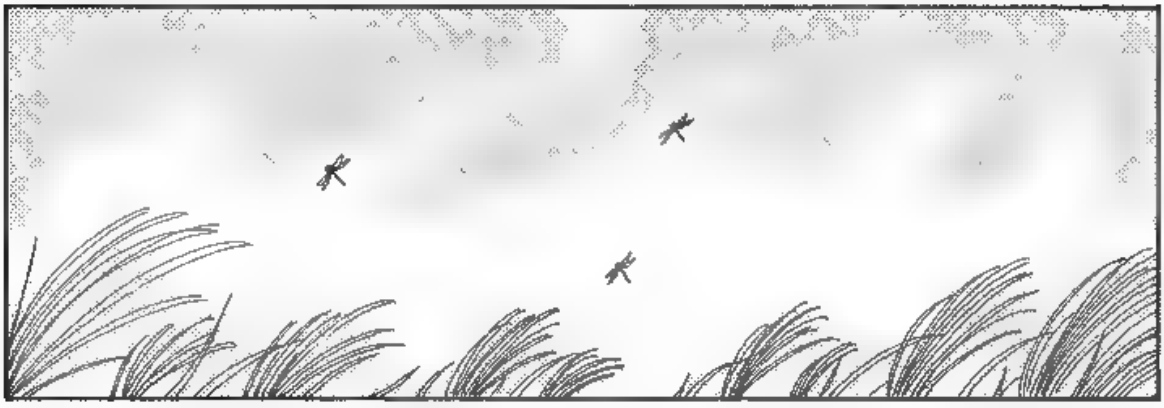
SORRY, SHIROU ...
...

FLAP
YOUR PAPA'S ALWAYS SO DISORGA-NIZED...

I WAS SO BUSY DAY-DREAMING I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

WHY'RE YOU TAKING THAT OUT NOW?!
?!
SNATCH
SWIP
GRUNT
RUSTLE RUSTLE
THE TRUTH IS, I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
WHAT...?
TCH
...
SO...
THAT I'VE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY JUST BEING WITH HIM.
IF I THINK ABOUT IT...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
CLUTCH

I WANT TO GIVE IT TO HIM PROPERLY.
OKAY?



IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT LET'S EAT LUNCH HERE TODAY, OKAY?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO EAT AT A CUSTOMER'S?
NAH, THE WEATHER'S TOO NICE.

HEY, COME ON!
WAIT UP!

SHINE
YEAH!
!
I WAS THINK-ING WE COULD EAT WITH MAMA, JUST THE THREE OF US.
!
HERE,
THESE ARE YOURS.
DID YOU MAKE RICE BALLS FOR MAMA, TOO?
I DID,
BUT WE'RE NOT HAVING RICE BALLS TODAY.
AH!

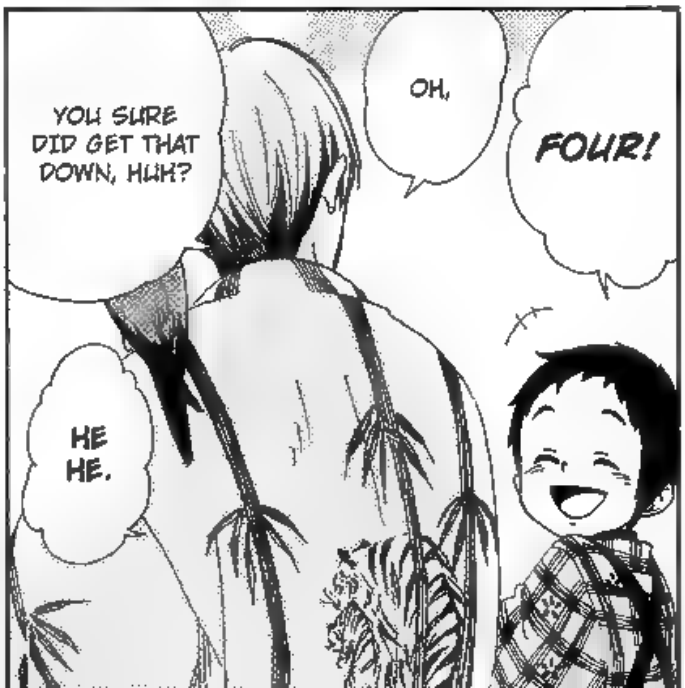
SHIYO LIKES INARI!
THE TRUTH IS, THE OWNER OF THE INN HAD TO DO IT...
YAAY!
OH GEEZ—
LET ME SEE THAT!
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?!

DID YOU MAKE THEM, PAPA?!
INARI!
WELL...

ONE,
THREE...
TWO,
FOUR?

!
SHIROU, HOW MANY INARI DID YOU GET?
PHEW ...
UMM, LEMME CHECK, OKAY?

CONGRATU-LATIONS!


OH,
FOUR!
YOU SURE DID GET THAT DOWN, HUH?
HE HE.

DID YOU KNOW? THAT NUMBER IS HOW OLD YOU ARE TODAY.

...HUH?
SHIYO IS FOUR?!
REALLY?!
YEAH.
YOU WERE BORN EXACTLY FOUR YEARS AGO.
I REMEMBER IT VERY WELL.

ON THAT DAY, I WAS WORKING VERY FAR AWAY.
I SENT IEJI IN PLACE OF MYSELF. SHE FLEW ALL NIGHT TO WITNESS THE BIRTH.
AND THEN, WHEN DAY CAME, SHE FLEW ALL THE WAY BACK TO TELL ME.
A HEALTHY BABY BOY... SHE SAID.
IT WASN'T UNTIL TWO MONTHS LATER,
THAT I FINALLY GOT TO HOLD YOU.
YOU WERE SO SMALL AND FLIMSY, I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD BREAK.

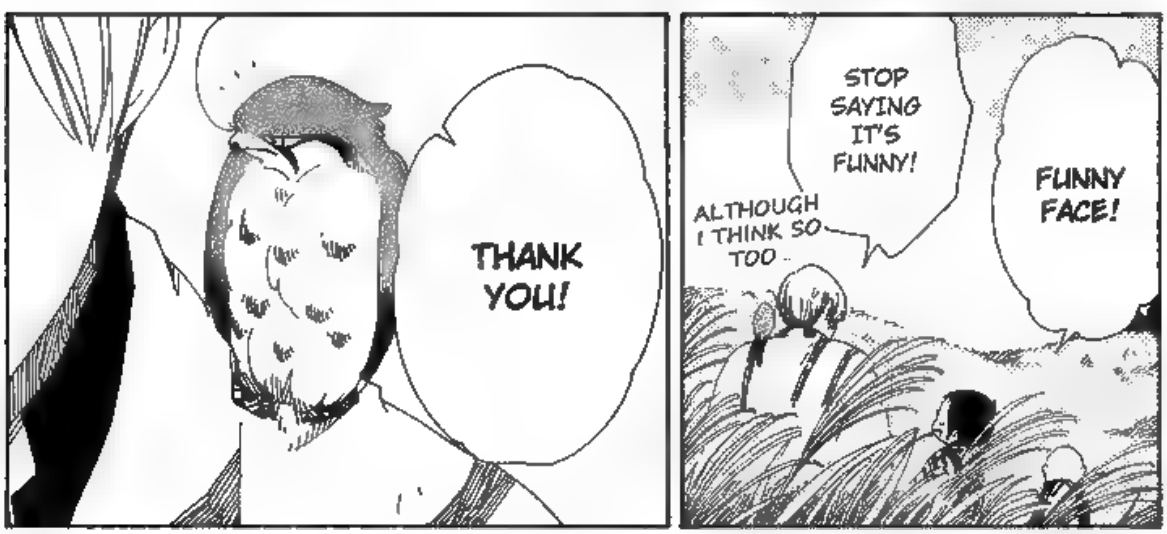
HEH...
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THAT LITTLE TINY BABY GOT SO BIG AS YOU!
RUB RUB
AAAAH!
ANYWAY.
UH.
THE TRUTH IS,
I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GIVEN YOU SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHEN YOU WERE BORN. BUT...

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'LL LIKE IT OR NOT...
?
HOLD OUT YOUR HAND.

PONG

HA HA HA HA
FUNNY FACE! WHAT IS IT?
...
...
HE'S A DOG THAT PROTECTS CHILDREN.
A DOG?
YOU SEE HOW HE HAS A BAMBOO BASKET ON HIS HEAD?
YEAH! WEIRD!
DON'T CALL IT WEIRD
INSIDE THAT BAMBOO BASKET, HE CAN CARRY ALONG EVERYTHING THAT MAKES YOU SCARED AND CRY.
?!

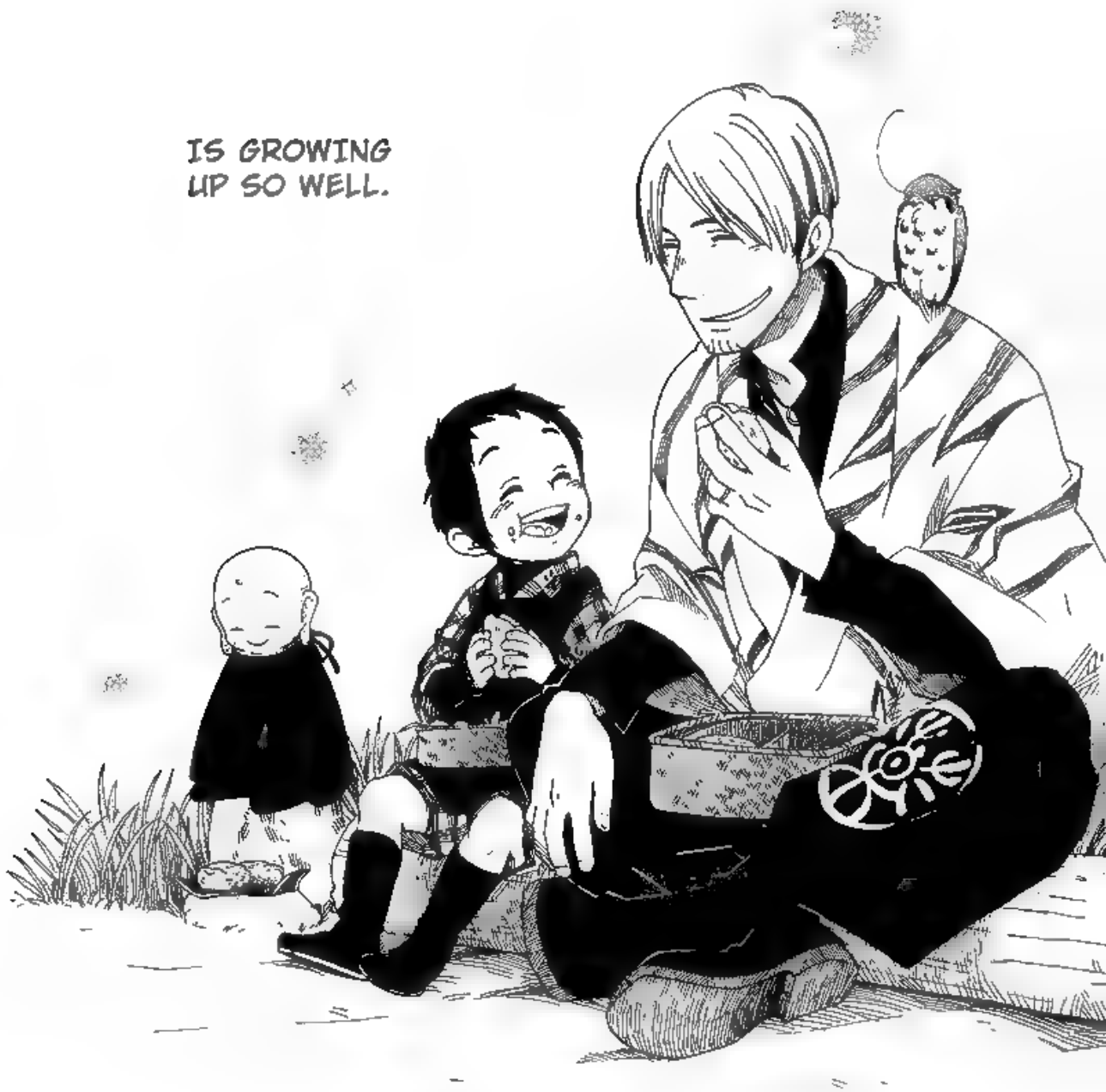
THE CHARACTER FOR LAUGH (笑) IS MADE UP OF THE CHARACTER FOR BAMBOO (竹) ATOP THE CHARACTER FOR DOG (犬)

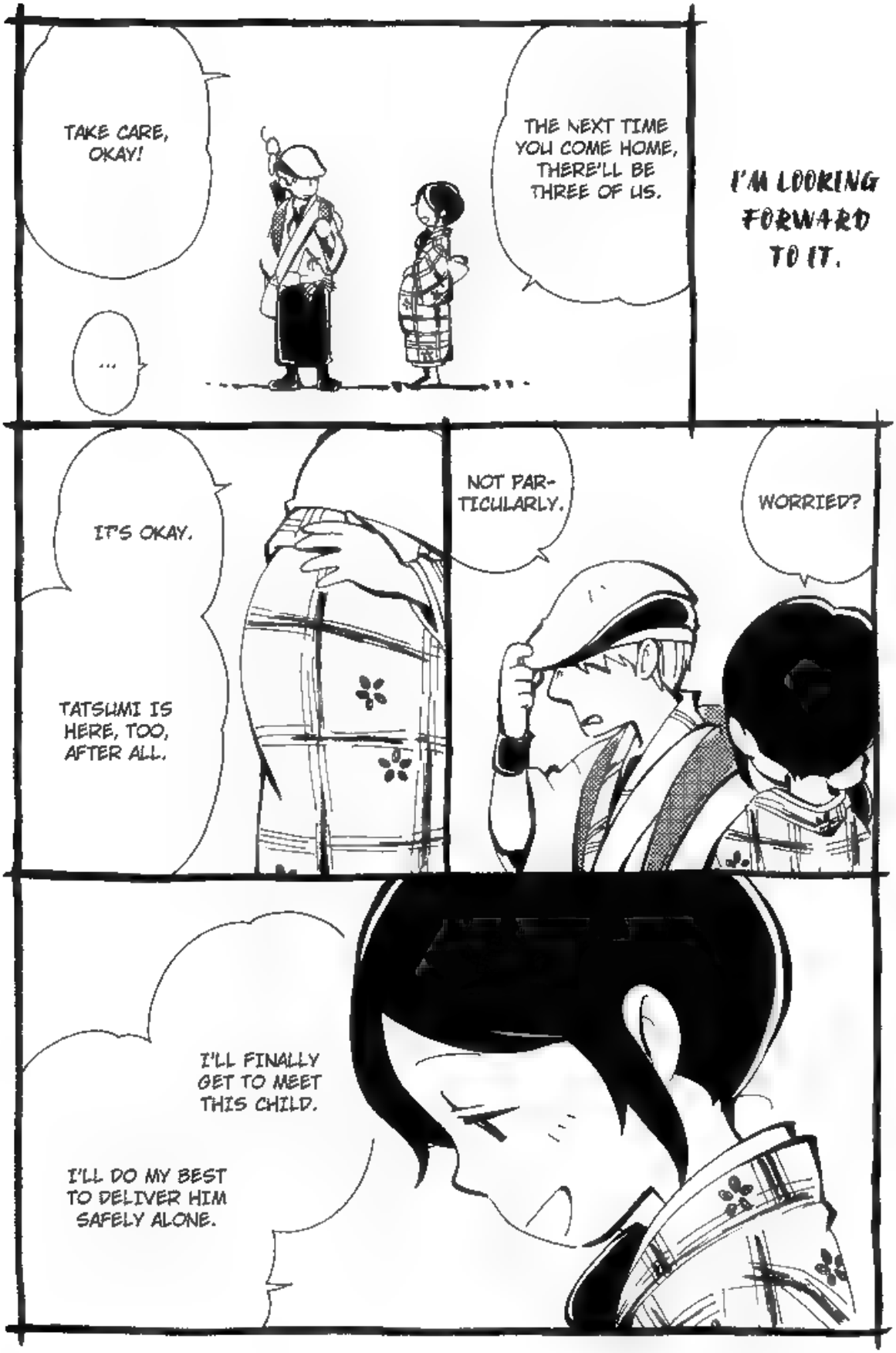


HEHE
SHIORI...
...

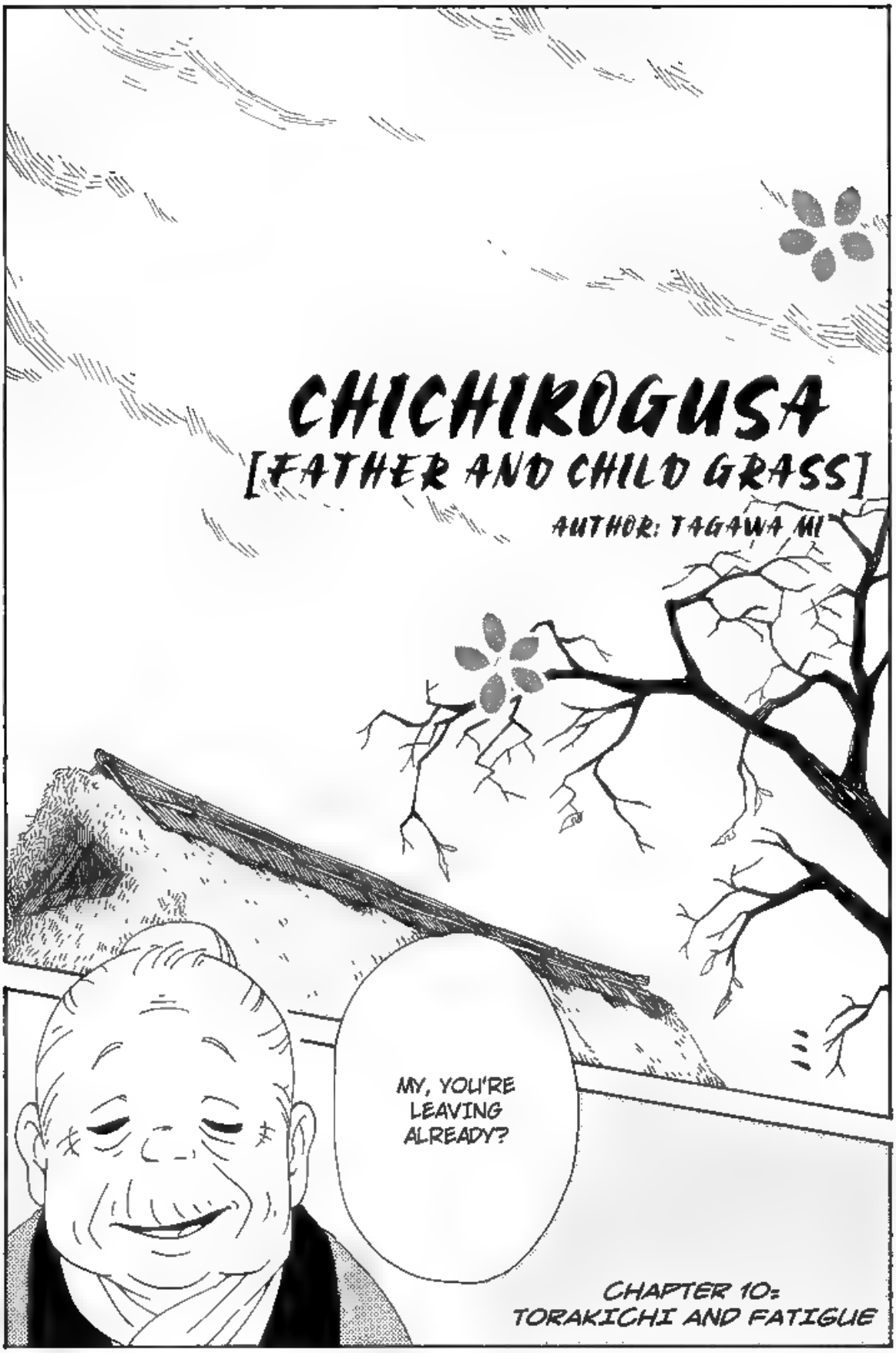
YOUR LITTLE
BABY SHIROU

IS GROWING
UP SO WELL.



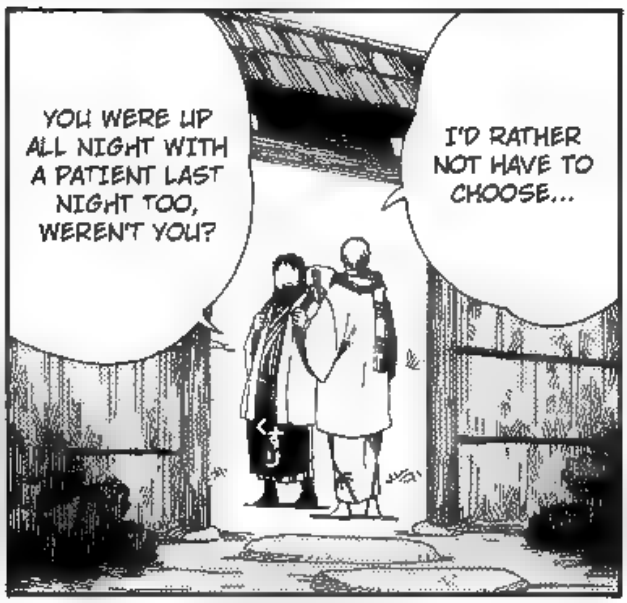

TAKE CARE, OKAY!
THE NEXT TIME YOU COME HOME, THERE'LL BE THREE OF US.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
...
IT'S OKAY.
TATSUMI IS HERE, TOO, AFTER ALL.
NOT PARTICULARLY.
WORRIED?
I'LL FINALLY GET TO MEET THIS CHILD.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO DELIVER HIM SAFELY ALONE.

EXTRA STORY EIGHT – END

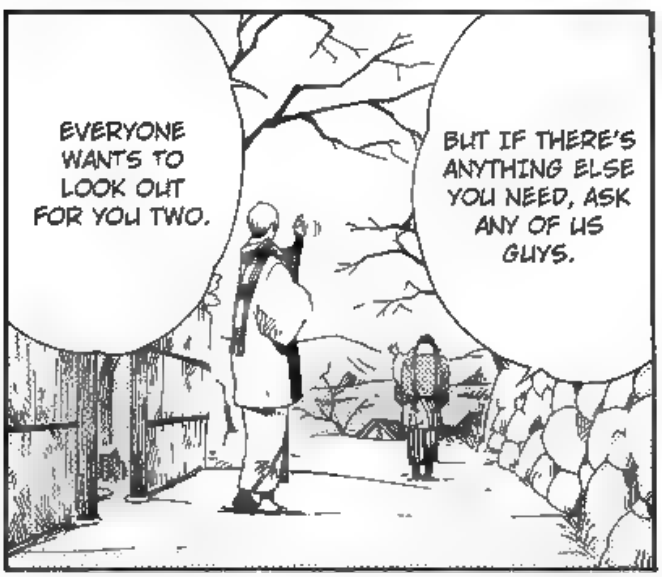

CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]
AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI
MY, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
CHAPTER 10:
TORAKICHI AND FATIGUE

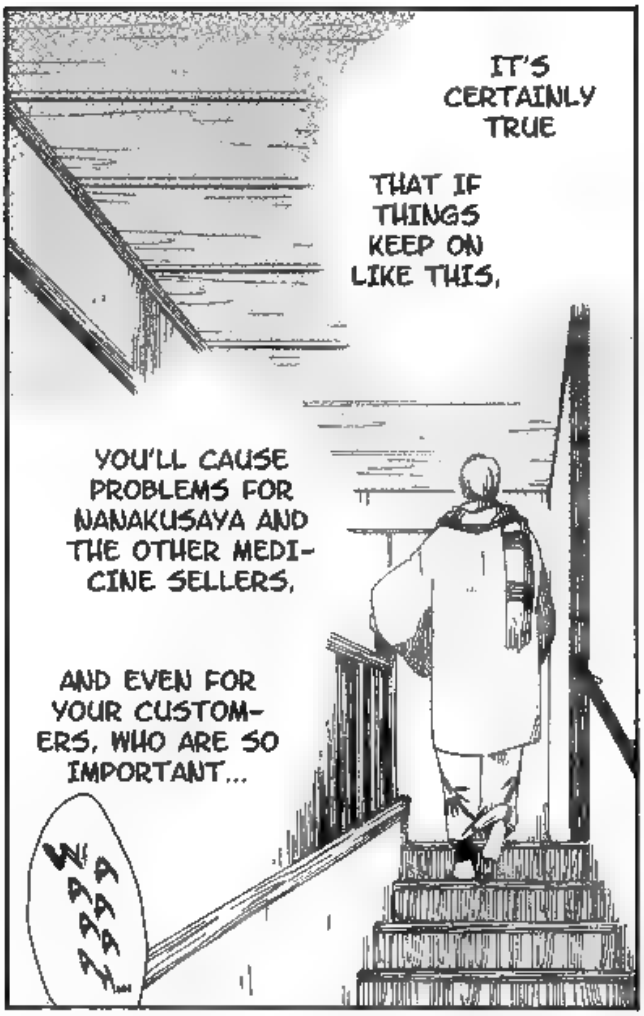
WHAAAT?
TORAKICHI'S SON IS SICK AT THEIR INN, SO HE HAS TO GO BACK RIGHT AWAY!
GRAD-MOTHER, I JUST TOLD YOU!
UM...
AH...
I REALLY AM...
TERRIBLY SORRY!
SORRY ABOUT THIS. GRAND-MOTHER IS ONLY LIKE THIS BE-CAUSE SHE'S SO FOND OF YOU.
HERE, GIVE THESE TO YOUR SON. THEY'RE FROM OUR GARDEN.
WHEN IS HE COMING BACK?!

SIGNS. GIRI INN, INN



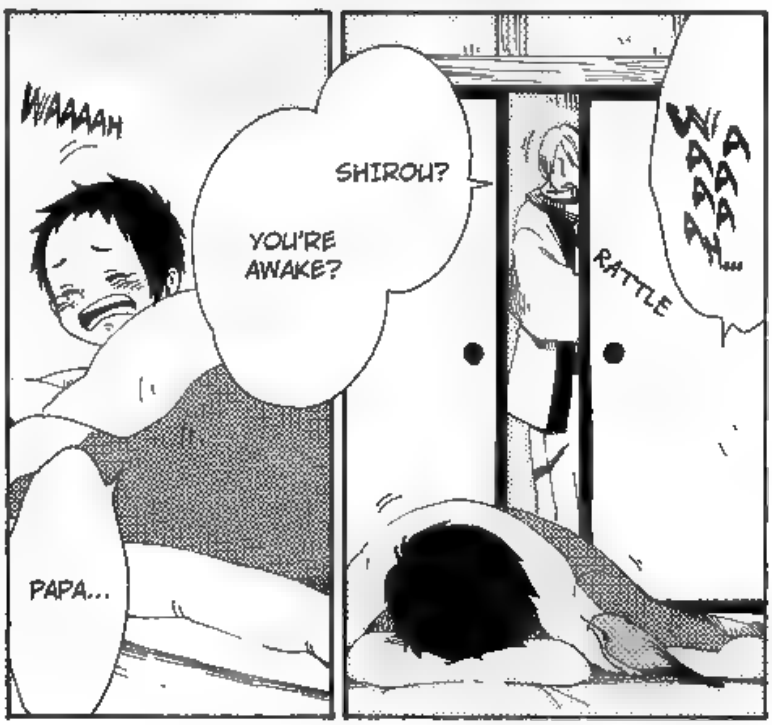
APRON: MEDICINE

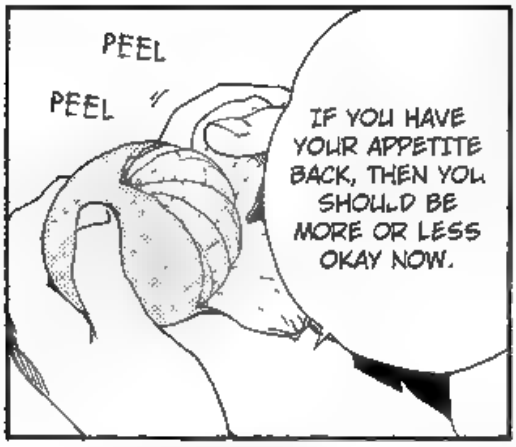



IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE
THAT IF THINGS KEEP ON LIKE THIS,
YOU'LL CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR NANAKUSAYA AND THE OTHER MEDICINE SELLERS,
AND EVEN FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS, WHO ARE SO IMPORTANT...
WAAAAH...

...
SIGH...

SNIFF...
MORE THAN THAT, THOUGH...


WAAAAH
SHIROU?
YOU'RE AWAKE?
PAPA...
RATTLE
WAAAAH...


PEEL
PEEL
IF YOU HAVE YOUR APPETITE BACK, THEN YOU SHOULD BE MORE OR LESS OKAY NOW.

HOW IS IT?
THE CUSTOMER I VISITED GAVE ME THIS.
YEAH.

I'M HUUUNGRY ...
THINK ABOUT THE BURDEN YOU'RE PLAC-ING ON YOUR YOUNG SON...
WAAAAH...
WHAT?!

IT'S GOOD!
GRIN

SIGH...
...OKAY?
MORE, PLEASE!
IF I DON'T GET THEM BACK TO WORK, WE'LL BE RUINED!
FIVE OF MY GIRLS ARE SICK!
THIS SICKNESS HAS REALLY DONE YOU IN, HASN'T IT?
WHOOOOOO
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
PROTECTING THAT SMILE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
HERE YOU GO, DRINK UP.
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'LL BE FINE. I HEARD ALL ABOUT THIS KIND OF ILL-NESS FROM A DOCTOR.

CHATTER
ALSO...
CHANGE YOUR SLEEPING CLOTHES FREQUENTLY, TOO.
SO BE SURE YOU DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.
KUDZU MAKES YOU SWEAT A LOT,
CHATTER
CHATTER
...
THE PEONY WILL STOP THE DIARRHEA,
AND THE KUDZU ROOT WILL STOP YOUR VOMITING.
NORMALLY ALL YOU SELL IS APHRODISIACS, SO WE WERE SO SURPRISED!
GOSSIP
GOSSIP
JUST LIKE A REAL MEDICINE-SELLER!
WEELLL!
YOU'RE AMAZING, CHIHARU!
AAAH! I'D REALLY LOVE TO, BUT...
LET US SEE, LET US SEE!
HEY, DO YOU HAVE ANY LEFT?!
I HAVE SO MANY CUSTOMERS IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT AND THE PLEASURE QUARTER, YOU KNOW?
THAT IS MY SPECIALTY.

WHOOOOOOO
...
I'M SOO SORRY!
FLINCH
THAT'S RIIIGHT. IRYO'S REALLY GOOD AT SENSING THESE SORTS OF THINGS, AND EARLIER SHE WANTED TO HURRY.
SNOW?
HMM.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
WHOOOOOOO
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
...

TORAKICHI, YOU BASTARD. I THOUGHT THIS WAS YOUR ROUTE, BUT...
GLOOM
WE ARE COMPLETELY LOST.
RUSTLE
HEY—
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, INARI?
WHY DON'T YOU GO TAKE A QUICK LOOK AND THEM COME BACK?
...
PI?
HEY!
DON'T LEAVE ME!!
WHACK
HEY!!
THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT PATH!

CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
PANT
PANT
HA
HA
HA
!
PANT
PANT
PAPA?
...
GRAB

SORRY... JUST...
WHAT'S WRONG?!
PAPA?!
PAPA, YOUR HAND'S WARM!
!
ARE YOU SWEATING A LOT?
GRASP
IT'S... NOTHING.
TIRED...
MISSING
...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
SHIROU'S VOICE...
I CAN'T HEAR IT... ANY MORE...
SHIYO'S HAND IS COLD.
PANT
PANT
HUH?
LIM...

?!
PAPA?!
ずる…
HEY,
PAPA, WHAT'S WRONG?!
PANT
PANT
SFX: THUD
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
ANSWER ME!
WAKE UP!
PAPA!

?!
CLUMP
OW!
RUS-
TLE
CRACK-
LE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CAW
CAW
CAW
GASP
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BRANCHES THIS LOW...?
GAAAAH.
HM?
RUSTLE
...
WHAT IS IT, KID?
THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER SEEN ANOTHER HUMAN OR SOMETHIN'?
HUH?

CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
IT'S TORAKICHI.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE HEAVY TONIGHT, GRANDMOTHER?
I DON'T KNOW. CAN'T HEAR THE SNOW.
RATTLE
OW!
HEY, OLD LADY!
YOU IN THERE?!
CAW
CAW
CAW
I WONDER WHY THAT BIRD KEEPS CALLING OUT THERE.

OH, IT'S YOU, YUJIRU.
WH...
WHAT?!
HUH?
THUD

WE'RE FROM NANAKUSAYA.
CAN YOU GIVE US A HAND?

IT'S TORA-KICHI!
?!
TORA-KICHI?!
PANT
PANT

CAN'T YOU DO SOM...
GEH.

HEY,
THIS INN OF YOURS IS PRETTY COLD.
HE HAS A REALLY HIGH FEVER, GRAND-MOTHER!

I'M ONLY HERE TO GET OUT OF THE SNOW!
WHY ARE YOU HERE TOO?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I'M A CUSTOMER, YOU KNOW!
GO SET UP A FUTON INSIDE
GOOD TIMING CHIHARU
AH, I FORGOT.
WHERE'S THE KID?
WAS HE BY HIMSELF?
SNIFF
IF YOU JUST STAND THERE SNIFFLING YOU'RE GONNA GET LOCKED OUT!
HEY, KID!

HIC
SNIFF

MAKES YOU LAUGH, HUH?
PAPA!
HEY,
WHY IS IT THEY'RE PAYING *HIM* SO MUCH ATTENTION?
PANT
PANT
...

LET GO!
SHIYO WANTS TO BE WITH PAPA!
AH, NO!
PAPA, WHERE ARE YOU?!
TUG TUG
DO YOU WANT TO CATCH WHAT HE HAS?!
CLICK
BE SILENT!
DON'T CARE!
THAT'S WHY HE'S SICK IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU BRAT...
TWITCH
WAA AAAA AAH!
?!
RUSTLE
CRYING.
I HEARD THE RUMORS, BUT... YOU REALLY ARE GOING AROUND WITH A KID, ARE YOU?
...
PANT
PANT

I...
HAVE TO GO TO HIM...
PANT
PANT
D,
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. YOU NEED TO SLEEP!
SHIROU... IS CRYING...
THIS... IS NOTHING ...
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AT ALL?!
...!
BLEEG
UUUGH ...
COUGH
THRUST
SO I HAVE TO GO...
PANT
PANT
PANT
SHIRO... ONLY HAS ME,

HHH
SNIFF
SEE!
ACHOO
COUGH
TCH
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE FIRE?
IT'S COLD OVER THERE
UM..
OKAY?
ATC
SNIFF
NO WAY! I'M TOO WEAK AND GIRLISH!
YOU GO!
JUST SHUT UP AND GO, ONE OF YOU!

THAT'S WHY I WANT A DOCTOR TO TAKE A LOOK...
IS TORA-KICHI THAT ILL?

WHAT?
I THOUGHT I'D SEND ONE OF THEM TO GET THE DOCTOR FROM THE NEXT VIL-LAGE OVER.
WHAT'S WRONG, GRAND-MOTHER?
HUH?

BUT IT'S SNOWING...
TAP TAP
?

THESE TWO FOOLS DIDN'T BRING ANY MEDICINE, SO WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE SPEAK TO A DOCTOR.

HANG ON NOW.
GRAB

RATTLE
HEY, BOY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

IF I DON'T HURRY, PAPA WILL DIE!
I HAFTA GO GET THE DOCTOR!
HAAAAAAA
ARE YOU TRYING TO CAUSE EVEN MORE PROB-LEMS FOR US?
LET GOOOOOO!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, PLEASE DO SOMETHING FOR A REASON OTHER THAN EARNING MONEY.
HUH?
YUJIRU,
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO ACT AS A MAN.

THE ONLY MAN HERE WITH STRONG LEGS FAST ENOUGH TO GO OUT BEFORE THINGS GET WORSE IS YOU, RIGHT?
GASP
?!
THE ONLY ONES HERE IN THIS INN RIGHT NOW ARE US GIRLS, THE OLD WOMAN, AND THIS CHILD, RIGHT?
YOU WOMEN AND CHILDREN STAY HERE! I SHALL BRAVELY GO IN SEARCH OF A DOCTOR OR A MONK OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU WANT!
HA! HA! HA!
BYE BYYE!
...
GRIN
WHAT?!
RIGHT?
IF YOU WERE TO GO OUT INTO THIS SNOW IN SEARCH OF A DOCTOR... IT WOULD BE SO MANLY.
IT...
IT WOULD BE MANLY.
AH...
YES.

WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
WOMEN AND CHIL-DREN...?
I'M GLAD HE'S SO EASY TO MANIPULATE.
SMILE
UUHH...
SNIFF
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SNOW OUT-SIDE IS GETTING WORSE.
DO YOU THINK YUJIRU WILL BE OKAY?
PA...
PAPA...

NO!
DRIP
DRIP
DON'T LEAVE SHIYO ALONE...
DRIP
PAPA!
PANT
PANT
PANT

AT FIRST I HAD TO WORK WITH ALL MY ENERGY.
I'VE WORKED IN THE STORE SINCE I WAS ELEVEN.
TORAKICHI (11)
HUH?
THE ONLY MISFORTUNE..
BUT I STUDIED BIT BY BIT ON MY OWN UNTIL MEDICINE BECAME SOMETHING FUN FOR ME.
HEY, CHIHARU!

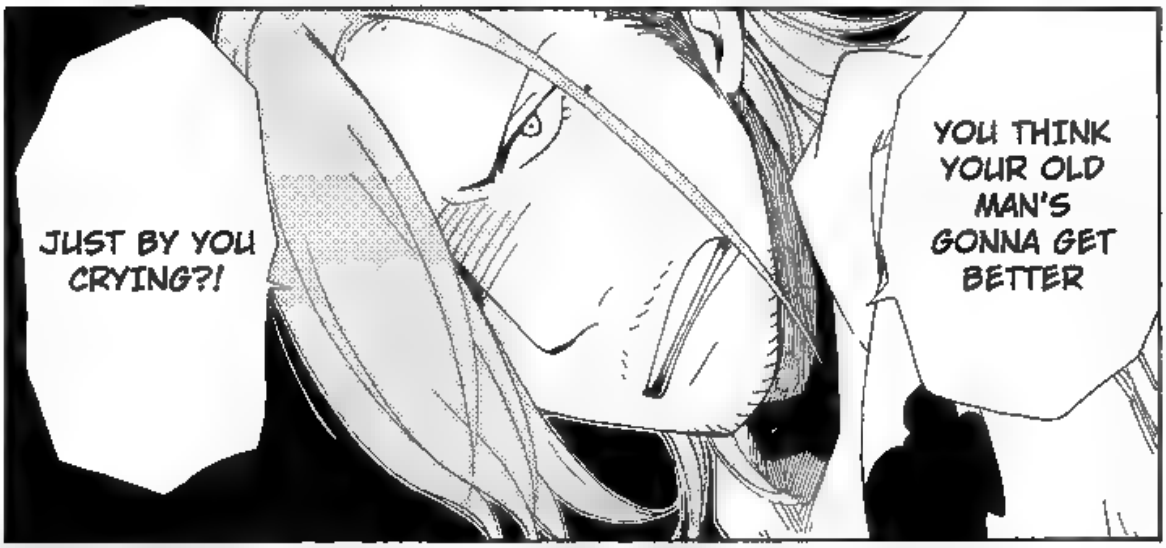
EXTRA STORY NINE - END

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]
AUTHOR: TAGAWA KU
CHAPTER 11:
SHIROU AND BEING ALONE

AH, GRAND-MOTHER.
SIGH...
HERE, YOU SHOULD EAT SOME FOOD. OKAY?
...

SNIFF...
HIC
DID TORA-KICHI EAT?
I SEE...
NO... IT'S USELESS.
SNIFF...
HIC..
NO...
PAPA...
IS GONNA DIE...
SLAM
WAAA-AAAH!
SHIYOU WILL BE ALL ALONE!

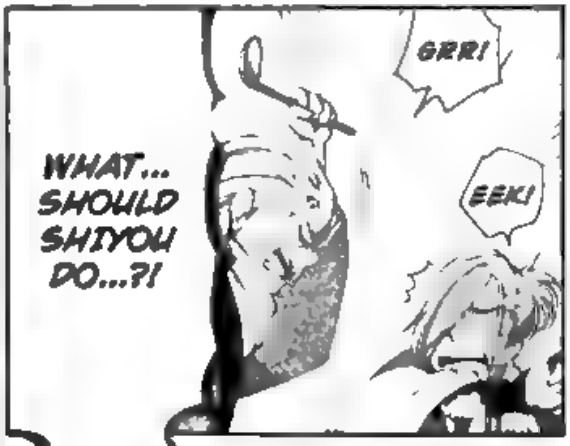
?!
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND BRATS.


JUST BY YOU CRYING?!
YOU THINK YOUR OLD MAN'S GONNA GET BETTER

...
B, BUT...
HUH?!

SFX THRUST
WAAA-AAAA-AAH!
I DON'T KNOW!!

SHIROU!


GRR!
EEK!
WHAT... SHOULD SHIYOU DO...?!

PA-PAAA!

LETTER: DEAR SHIRON,
A...
AUNTIE...
LETTER
DEAR

YOU OUGHT TO RESIGN YOURSELF,
AND WAIT WITH GRACE AND PATIENCE

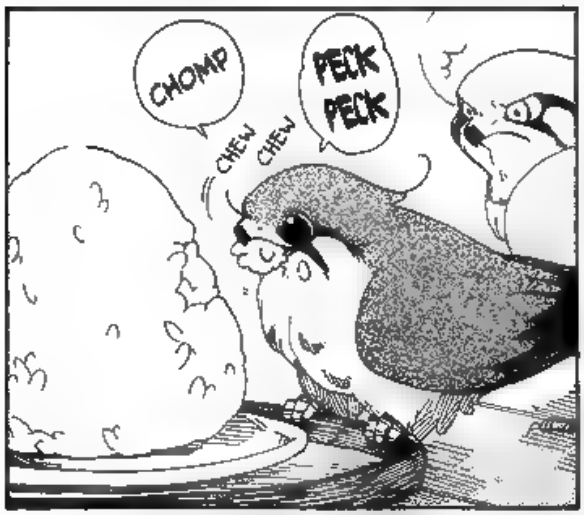
DON'T WORRY.
HIC.
BUT...
DO YOU WANT TO BE BROUGHT BACK HERE?!
?!
PAPA'S GOING TO STAY HEALTHY AND DO HIS BEST. EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.
AS LONG AS YOU CAN SMILE LIKE THAT,

?!
REMEMBER THAT, OKAY?
FOR ME, THAT'S THE BEST MEDICINE BY FAR.
GRAB
AH!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
...AH!

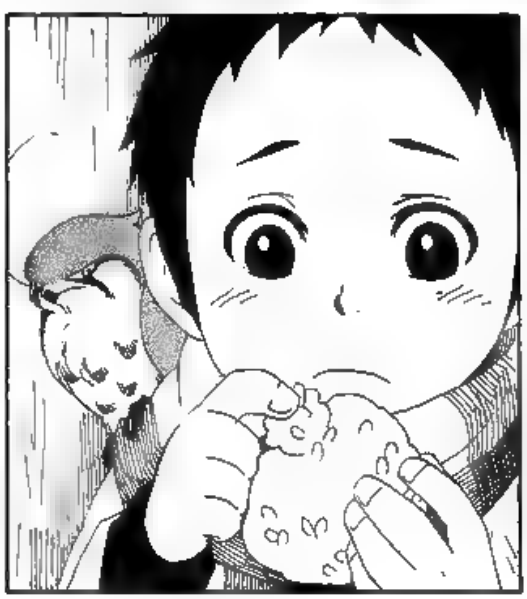
HIC
PLEASE...
HUG
PLEASE LOCK AWAY
SHIYOU'S CRY-BABY PROBLEMS...

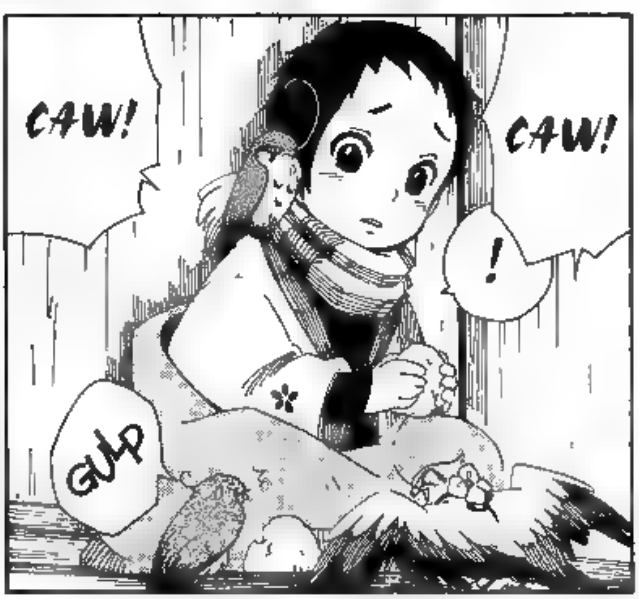
IF SHIYOU CAN'T SMILE,
THEN PAPA'S NOT GONNA BE HEALTHY, SO...
PLEASE...
PLEASE...!
...
HEY! I HAVE BROUGHT THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS!
RATTLE
WHACK
OW!

...
YOU SURE ARE EATING A LOT.
OM NOM NOM
MORE!
CHEW CHEW

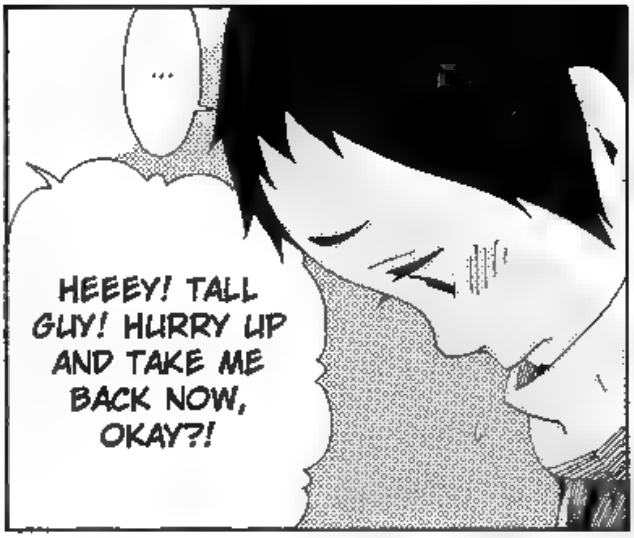

CHOMP
CHEW CHEW
PECK PECK

HA HA HA HA!
WHEEE!
ONE MORE HOT SAKE, PLEASE...
PROSTRATE YOURSELVES BEFORE ME IN GRATI-TUDE!!
YOU CALL THAT FAST?!




CAW!
CAW!
!
GULP

CHEW CHEW
SIGH ...
CHOMP
REACH ...
CAW
CAW
CAW
PUSH
HEH...
HEH...
SMILE ...
...INFLUENZA.



NOTE: DAIFUKU MOCHI - A KIND OF RICE CAKE STUFFED WITH BEAN JAM.

BUT I MIGHT HAVE TO GO TO YOUR PAPA.
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO SLEEP ALONE?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, JUST LET ME KNOW.
CAN

I WON'T GO IN THE ROOM.
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT...?
...
U, UM.
I WANT TO SAY GOOD-NIGHT TO PAPA...
FLAP
WAIT!
AH,
HE'S CRYING...
WAA-AAAH!
...HH
... AHHH ...

I HAVE TO GO TO HIM
SHIROU IS CRYING

SHIROU...!
PANT

PAPA...?
SHIROU.
A DREAM
PANT
PANT

MY VOICE...
PAPA.
SHIROU ?!
SHIYOU
WON'T CRY.
UM.
SO...
GET WELL SOON, OKAY?
TOUKEIJI
I'LL DO MY BEST AT SLEEPING ALONE, OKAY.

PANT
PANT
GOOD NIGHT...
TAP TAP
OUT
AHHH
I KNEW IT!
TAP TAP

NOTE: CHIHARU SEEMS TO IDENTIFY AS A WOMAN, USING FEMALE PRONOUNS AND SENTENCE ENDINGS WHEN TALKING. (THAT, OR S/HE'S JUST OFFENDED BY SHIYOU'S USE OF "OJISAN," WHICH IS NORMALLY USED FOR MEN IN THEIR THIRTIES.

...
AH.
UM.
IS IT OKAY
IF SHIYOU HELPS YOU...?
YOU SHOULD JUST GO TO SLEEP, YOU BRAT!
THIS SORT OF STUFF ISN'T FOR KIDS TO PLAY WITH.
N, NO WAY! OF COURSE NOT!
FLINCH
B, BUT...
FIDGET

SHIYOU...
WANTS TO HELP MAKE PAPA'S MEDICINE...!
...
WHEN SHIYOU HAD A FEVER,
PAPA ALWAYS MADE ME MEDICINE.
AND HE STAYED AWAKE ALL NIGHT BY MY SIDE...
SQUEEZE
SIGH...
SHIYOU WANTS TO GO BE WITH PAPA.
BUT I CAN'T, SO...
SQUEEZE

JUST LOOKING AT YOUR FATHER MAKES ME ANGRY!
CLICK
THRUST THRUST
IT'S COLD!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME IN, THEN HURRY UP AND SHUT THE DOOR!
FIDGET
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL...
HA!
AND THEN? PROMISING TO "WORK JUST AS HARD AS I HAVE UNTIL NOW"?
WORKING SO HARD WITH A LITTLE BRAT IN TOW. IT'S SO UNSIGHTLY!
ALL HE'S DOING IS BOTHERING THOSE AROUND HIM!
AH. AND...
TO THAT IDIOT FATHER OF YOURS.

I'M EVEN YOUNGER THAN YOUR OLD MAN, ANYWAY!
AND THE NEXT TIME YOU CALL ME "SIR" I WILL SPANK YOU SO HARD YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SPEAK.
FLINCH
FROM NOW ON, YOU DON'T CALL ME "CHIHARU," BUT "TEACHER!"
SICKLE HARE'S EAR!
IT'S A FEVER REDUCER!
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN APPETITE, SO WE CAN'T JUST USE MEDICINE LIKE WE GIVE FOR COLDS...
GOT IT...?
ANYWAY, YOUR FATHER IS PRETTY WEAK RIGHT NOW. WE'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD.
?!
YOU... SURE ARE QUICK ON THE UPTAKE.
SO UNCUTE.

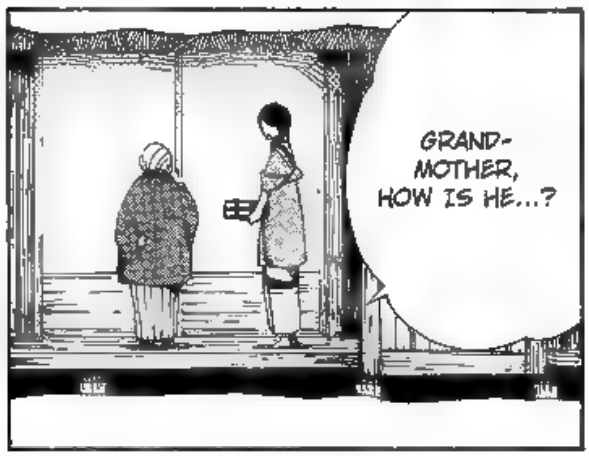
[SICKLE HARE'S EAR]
BUPLEURUM FALCATUM
USES:
FEVER REDUCER, PAIN RELIEVER.
FOR USE WITH ALTERNATING FEVERS AND CHILLS.
CAN ALSO BE USED TO COMBAT EXHAUSTION.
THIS IS OUR MAIN INGREDI-ENT.
NEXT...
AH!
CROW-DIPPER!
GOOD FOR NAUSEA.
JUJUBE!
RECOVERS STRENGTH.
SNATCH
!
ANYWAY... I'LL MEASURE OUT ALL THESE INGREDIENTS IN THE RIGHT AMOUNT.
SO I JUST NEED YOU TO FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS AND MIX UP THE PRE-SCRIPTION.
'KAY!
SILENCE! I'M THE ONE EX-PLAINING THINGS HERE!!
AH.
AND THIS IS...
SAY "YES"!
...
YES!

...
WHY?
DAD!
ARE YOU BACK? I'VE BEEN STUDYING A LOT, AND...
TAP TAP
WHY IS HE WORKING SO INNOCENTLY AND SINCERELY?
FOR HIS FATHER'S SAKE...?

OH. YOU MADE THIS UP ALL BY YOURSELF?
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER, TORAKICHI.
NICE JOB.
CHIHARU!
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE NOT TO MESS AROUND WITH THE RAW INGREDIENTS, HAVEN'T I?!
YOU'RE NOT LIKE TORAKICHI. YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH YET.
YOU'RE WRONG!
I MADE THIS MEDICINE FOR YOUR PREMATURE BALDING.
BALDING...?!

AHHH.
I DON'T WANT TO [redacted] CRAP LIKE THIS.
TCH.
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN STUDYING HARD FOR YOU AND MADE IT MYSELF, FOR YOUR SAKE...

TWO DAYS LATER


GRAND-MOTHER, HOW IS HE...?

ALL DONE.
IT'S THEIR FAULT!
HERE!
KEEP MIXING UNTIL I SAY YOU'RE DONE!!

...
I SEE...
IF HE RESTS A FEW MORE DAYS, HE'LL BE FINE.
RUSTLE
PLEASE,
MAMA...
BRUSH

HELP PAPA GET BETTER SOON.

IF YOU DON'T SELL MEDICINE AT A HIGH PRICE, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A PROFIT.
LISTEN, YOU IDIOT.
ANYWAY, WE DIDN'T GET ALONG.
THEY WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING.
YAWN
DON'T JUST LIE THERE, CHIHARU!
CHIHARU (13)
TO SAY IT CLEARLY...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY! BECAUSE WE ARE SELLING MEDICINE FOR PEOPLE'S HEALTH!
YOU SHRIMP!
WE'LL NEVER SELL ANYTHING IF WE CARE MORE ABOUT PROFIT THAN PEOPLE'S HEALTH!
菜の神屋
菜の神屋
YUJIRU (12)
TORAKICHI (14)

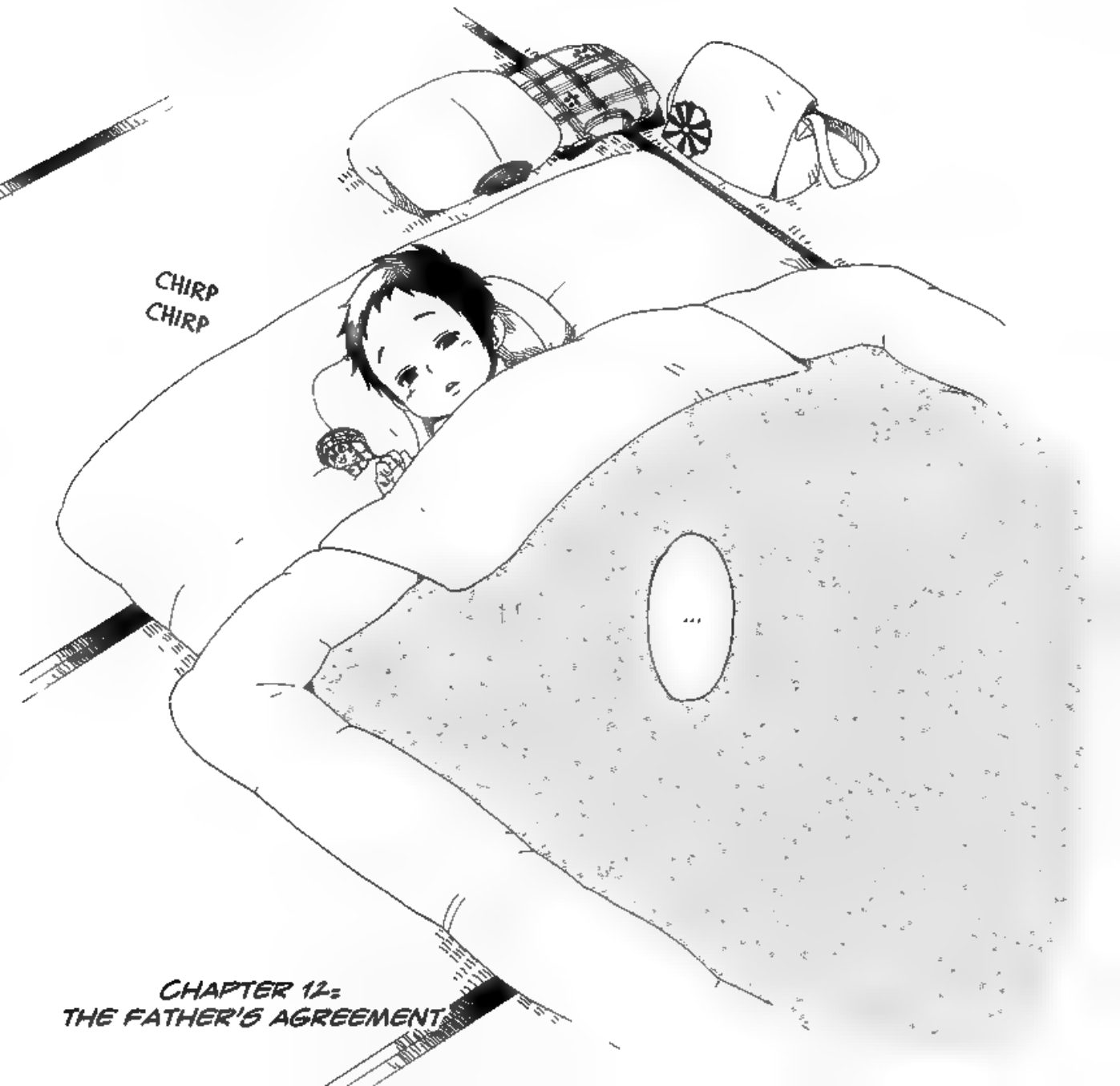
EXTRA STORY TEN - END

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
THIS COUGH...
IS PRETTY TERRIBLE ...
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS.

HEY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN SHIROU A SINGLE TIME.
IN ORDER TO AVOID PASSING ON MY INFECTION,
AND SO...
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SAY? GO AHEAD
YEAH
WELL? THE MEDICINE I PREPARED HAS MADE YOU RECOVER QUITE WELL, HASN'T IT?
OW.

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

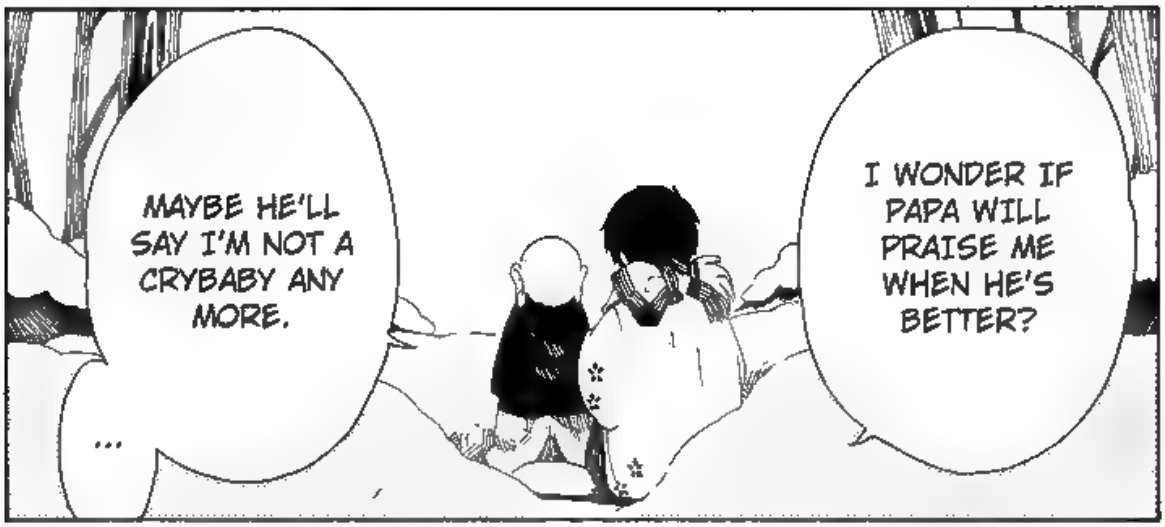
AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 12:
THE FATHER'S AGREEMENT

GOOD MORNING...
GOOD...
AH.
GOOD MORNING, SHIROU.
AND PAPA...?
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE TO GET BREAKFAST.
CHIHARU AND YUJIRU GOT UP REALLY EARLY AND WENT OUT.
!
HIS COUGH IS STILL REALLY BAD, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER BEFORE YOU CAN SEE HIM.
YOUR FATHER...

MAMA, I CAME AGAIN!
LOOK. IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY FLOWERS, BUT I BROUGHT YOU SOME HEAVENLY BAMBOO.
PLEASE HELP PAPA'S COUGH GET BETTER!
YOU KNOW, HEAVENLY BAMBOO IS GOOD FOR YOUR THROAT.
SHIROU'S BEING A GOOD KID...
I WAS ABLE TO SLEEP ALL BY MYSELF YESTERDAY, TOO!


MAYBE HE'LL SAY I'M NOT A CRYBABY ANY MORE.
...
I WONDER IF PAPA WILL PRAISE ME WHEN HE'S BETTER?

I WANT TO SEE HIM SOON...
SNIFF

...
SQUEEZE
GASP
TAP
DROP
I KNOW. I'LL TAKE SOME TO PAPA, TOO.
AH.

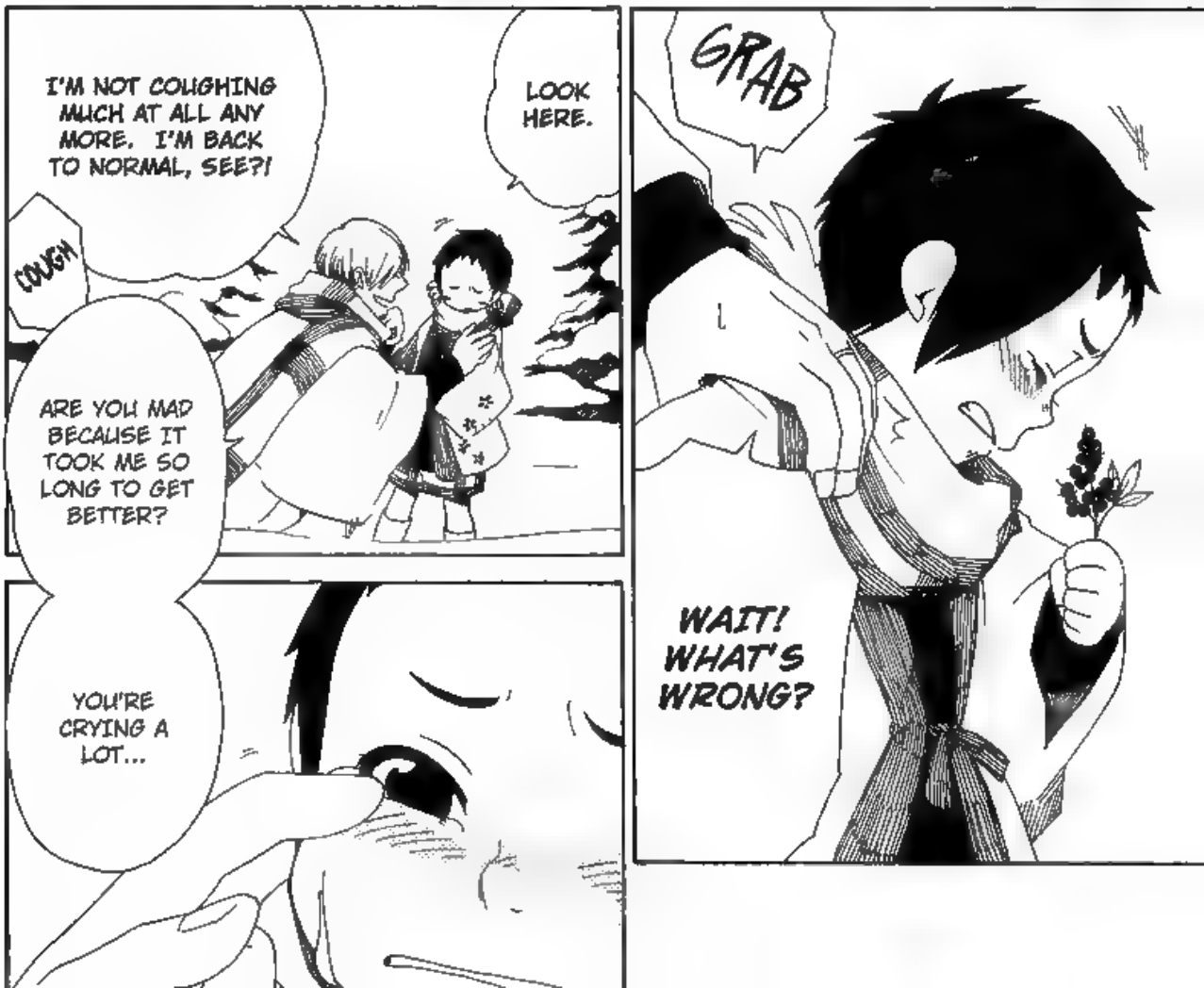
RATTLE
PLOP
...
SLIP
I'M FINE NOW.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
HMPH
HAAA...
...

I WANT TO HURRY AND SEE HIM, AND MAKE HIM SMILE.
YES.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DANGER OF ME STILL BEING CONTAGIOUS.
YOU'RE UP ALREADY...?
!
HELLO. IT'S BEEN SO LONG NOW I FEEL VERY WELL-RESTED.
CRACK
DASH
HEY!
DON'T GO RUNNING OFF! YOUR BODY IS STILL...
WHAM
WHERE'S SHIROU? I DON'T SEE HIM IN HIS ROOM, OR...
...

?!
OH.
LOOK, SHIROU, IT'S YOUR DAD.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALL BETTER.
HOW GREAT!
AND ANYWAY, THAT LITTLE ONE WILL BE FINE...
PANT
AH...
I GOT SCARED WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE OUTSIDE AND HADN'T COME BACK YET...
YOU'RE OKAY.
COUGH
SHIROU ...

PAPA'S ALL BETTER!
...
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
COME HERE!

SFX: DASH
SHIROU?!
WHAT?
...
NGG!

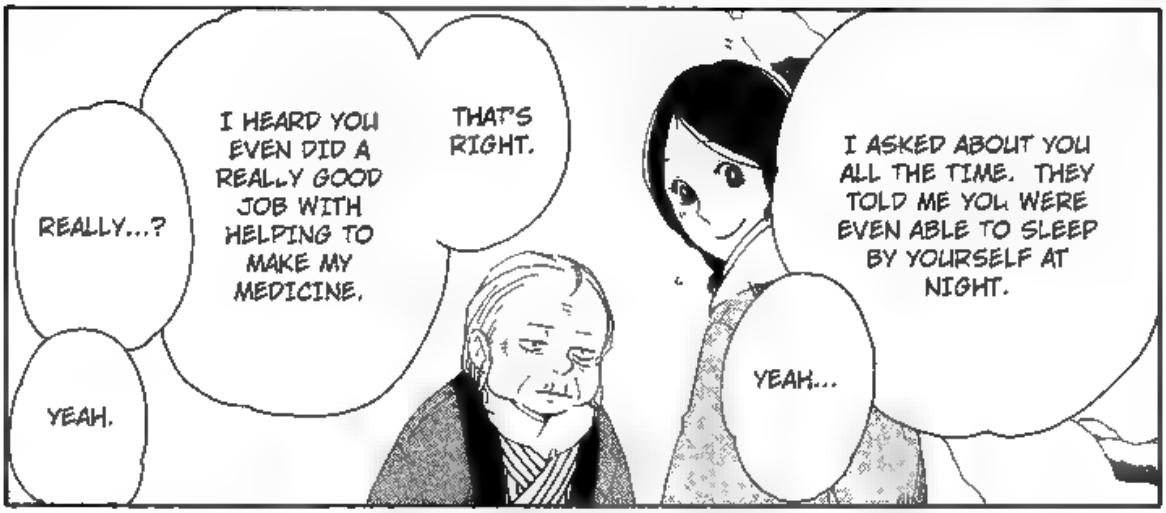

I'M NOT COUGHING MUCH AT ALL ANY MORE. I'M BACK TO NORMAL, SEE?!
LOOK HERE.
COUGH
ARE YOU MAD BECAUSE IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO GET BETTER?
YOU'RE CRYING A LOT...
GRAB
WAIT! WHAT'S WRONG?

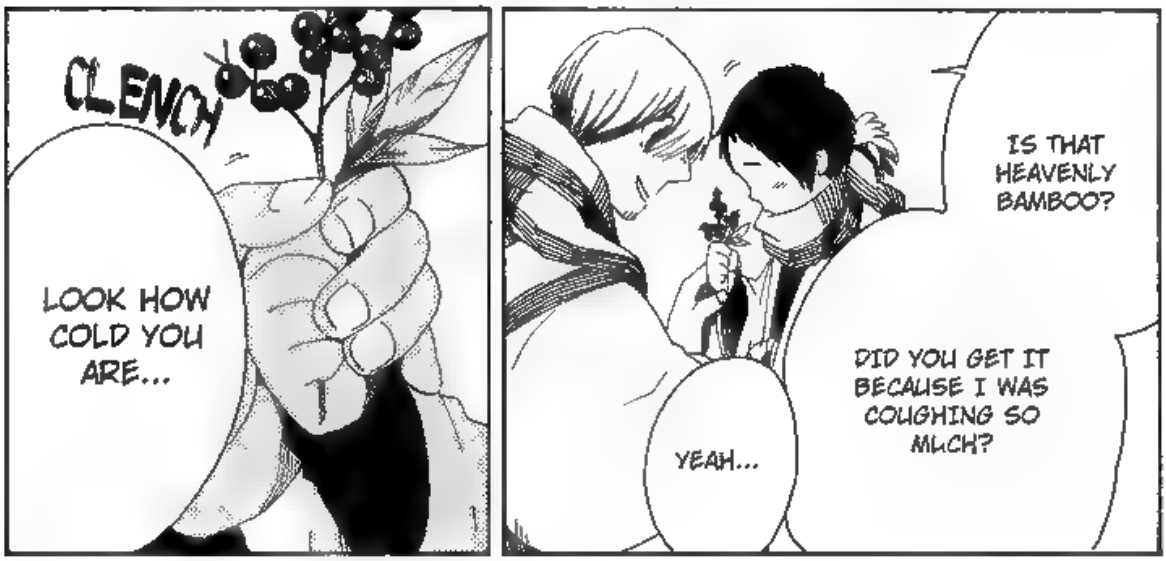
?!
SHIYO DIDN'T CRY AT ALL...!
SHIYO WAS A GOOD KID THE WHOLE TIME...!
THIS IS DIFFERENT!
DON'T LOOK!!
SOMEHOW LOST THAT LITTLE CHARM THAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO HIM.
CHARM?
IT SEEMS LIKE SHIROU ...
UM...
RUSTLE
...

BECAUSE PAPA...
GAVE IT TO ME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
...
IT PROBABLY FELL INTO THE SNOW SOMEWHERE.
WE'VE LOOKED ALL OVER, BUT COULDN'T FIND IT AT ALL...
I WANTED TO SHOW PAPA THAT SIDE OF ME, BUT...
I'M NOT JUST A CRYBABY.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
RUSTLE
SHIYO HASN'T BEEN CRYING AT ALL AND TRIED HARD EVEN ALL BY HIMSELF, BUT...

HUG
DON'T BE SILLY. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT.
IT'S VERY HARD TO BE ALL BY YOURSELF. YOU DID A GOOD JOB.
YOU ALWAYS TRY YOUR BEST. I KNOW THAT.

...
YOU'RE A STRONG CHILD...
YOU DID A REALLY GOOD JOB.


REALLY...?
YEAH.
I HEARD YOU EVEN DID A REALLY GOOD JOB WITH HELPING TO MAKE MY MEDICINE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I ASKED ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME. THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE EVEN ABLE TO SLEEP BY YOURSELF AT NIGHT.
YEAH...


CLENCH
LOOK HOW COLD YOU ARE...
IS THAT HEAVENLY BAMBOO?
DID YOU GET IT BECAUSE I WAS COUGHING SO MUCH?
YEAH...

I'M SO SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR A USELESS DAD LIKE ME.

PAPA.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BETTER.

AH!

ZOOM
POOF

CAW
SWOOSH

THANK YOU!
IEJI!
RUSTLE
...
GRAB
HMPH.
SIGH...

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR FROM HIM AT ALL!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS PLANNING TO QUIT ALL THIS AND TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE ...
HONESTLY
COUGH
COUGH
THE PREVIOUS EVENING
WELL...?
THAT JERK...
YEAH...
COUGH
COUGH
WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO SAY?

DON'T TELL ME YOU STOLE...
?!
DON'T INSULT PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
TAKE IT OUT.
YOU HAVE MY REGIONAL LEDGER, RIGHT?
YUJIRU.
WHAT?
I BROUGHT IT, JUST AS YOU REQUESTED.
SLIP
BOOK: PATENT MEDICINE, REGIONAL LEDGER
YOU HAVE THE STORE'S OLDEST CUSTOMERS,
BUT YOU STILL HAVE SUCH A LUKEWARM PROFIT.
HOW ABOUT IT, TORAKICHI?
COUGH
* REGIONAL LEDGER
A LEDGER CONTAINING ALL THE CUSTOMER INFORMATION AND MEDICINAL DETAILS. THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT THING FOR SELLING MEDICINE.

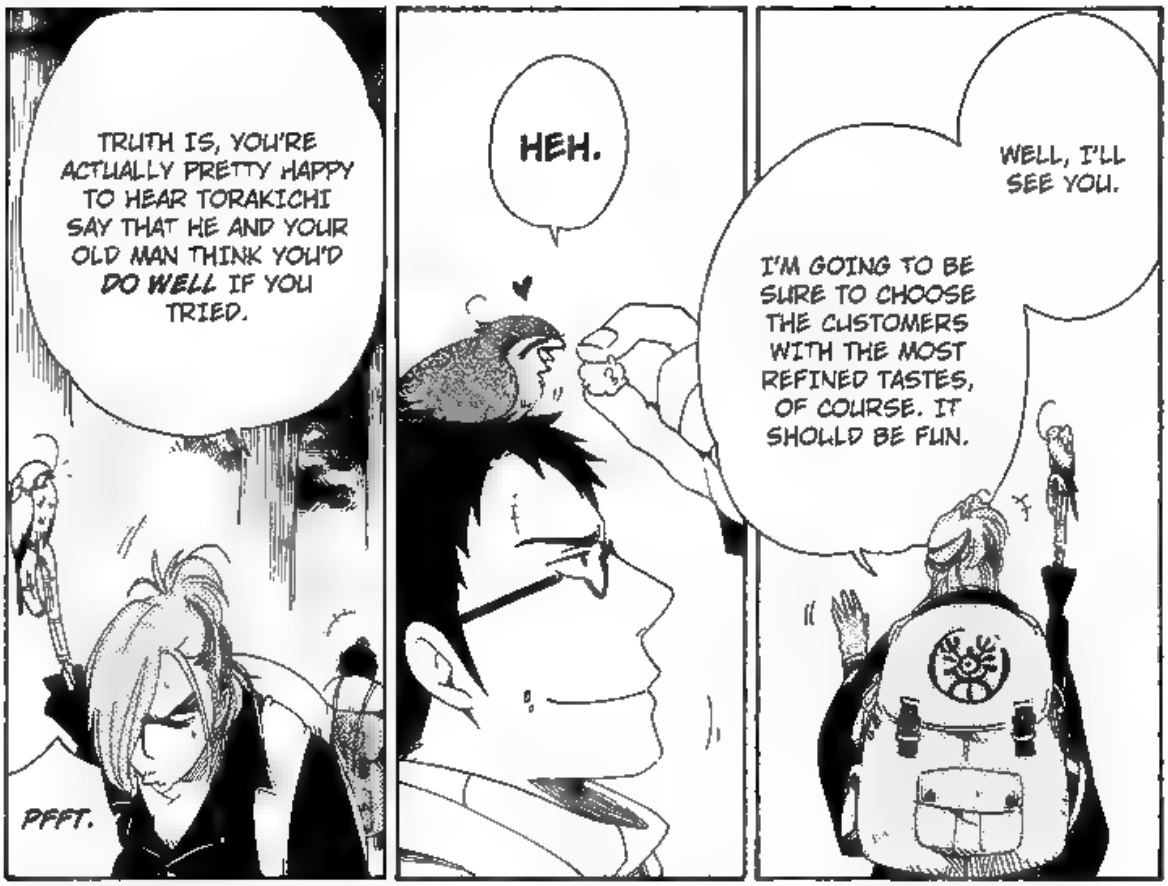
WITH MY HUGE STRIDE AND POWERFUL BUSINESS SENSE I'LL BRING IN WAY MORE MONEY.
HAND THESE FANCY CUSTOMERS OF YOURS OVER TO ME.
SO HURRY UP AND GO HOME, YOU USELESS...
COUGH COUGH
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A PROFIT WITH A KID IN TOW.
...
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
SLIDE
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT TOO, THIS WHOLE TIME...
I...
!
YEAH...
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU SAY, YUJIRU.

SFX. THRUST
ばっ
SO I'M BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE,
WON'T YOU HELP ME OUT A LITTLE?!
?!
TWITCH

BUT...
GRIP
COUGH
COUGH
AND OF COURSE I HAVE TO THINK OF MY IMPORTANT CUSTOMERS BEFORE ANYTHING.
AND DO MY JOB WITHOUT JUST PLAYING WITH MY SON,
I KNOW IT'S ESSENTIAL TO THINK ONLY OF MY JOB...
AND CHIHARU, IF YOU EVER SET OUT TO WORK SERIOUSLY, YOU'D DO REALLY WELL.
THE OLD MAN AND I BOTH KNOW THAT.
YUJIRU.
THE STORE ABSOLUTELY RELIES UPON THE MONEY YOU BRING IN.
COUGH
YOU REALLY SAVED ME THIS TIME.
I'M VERY THANKFUL!

I'M TRULY SORRY TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO CONTINUE TO TREAT ME AS WELL AS YOU DID THAT TIME.
PAPA...
I CAN'T LET MYSELF FALL BEHIND LIKE I DID IN THE PAST...
BUT I CAN'T CONTINUE TO IGNORE WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.
PLEASE!
PLEASE FORGIVE MY SELFISH REQUEST!
I BEG YOU!!
EVEN JUST A LITTLE,
WON'T YOU HELP ME?!
SIGH

GOTTA SAY, I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED YOU OFFERED TO HELP.
WELL, WHATEVER. IT'S GOING TO COST HIM A LOT TO DO THIS.
HMPH!
4444H!
THAT HE'LL SAY, "THAT USELESS SON OF MINE IS FINALLY DOING SOME GOOD WORK"?
CHEW CHEW
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU LEFT BEFORE ME, BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY HERE?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU THINK YOUR OLD MAN'LL CRY WITH JOY WHEN HE HEARS?
I'M DOING THIS FOR ENTIRELY SELFISH REASONS, JUST LIKE YOU.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

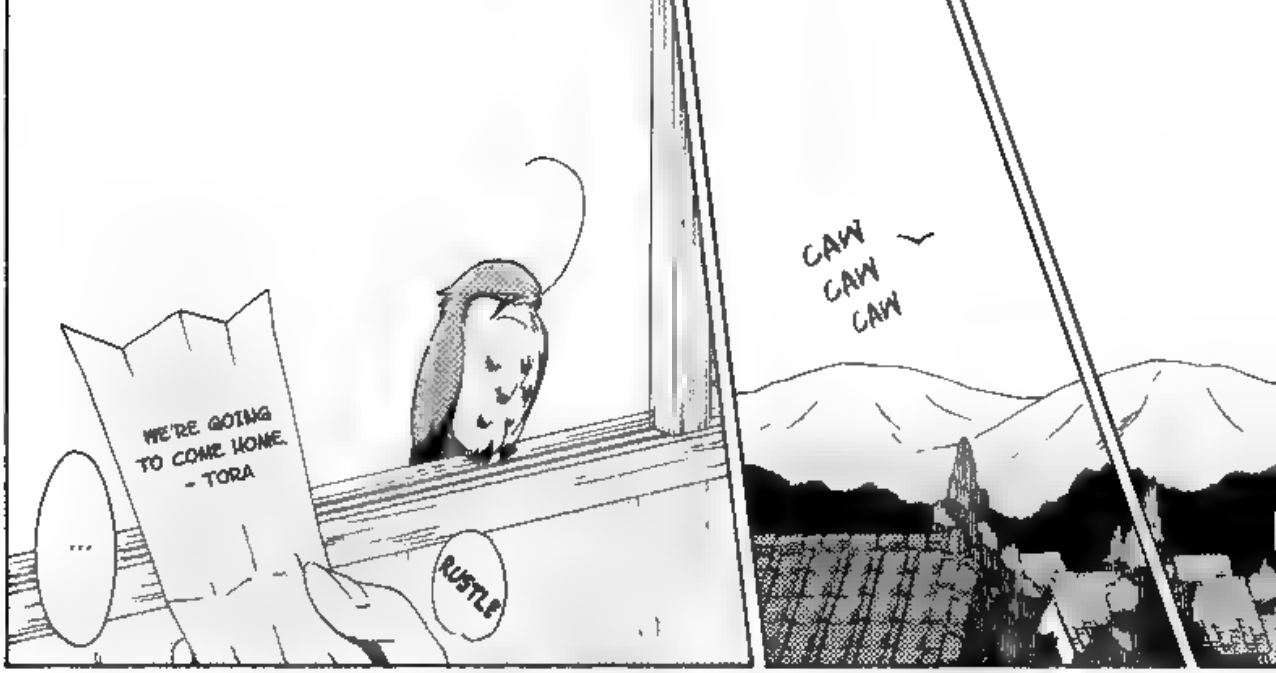

TRUTH IS, YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY HAPPY TO HEAR TORAKICHI SAY THAT HE AND YOUR OLD MAN THINK YOU'D DO WELL IF YOU TRIED.
PFFT.
HEH.
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU.
I'M GOING TO BE SURE TO CHOOSE THE CUSTOMERS WITH THE MOST REFINED TASTES, OF COURSE. IT SHOULD BE FUN.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER
WELL THEN...
HEY!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET THE WRONG IDEA YOU BIG MORON! WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?!
YOU'RE SO DISIN-GENUOUS.
PFFT.
WHAAAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE!
SNICKER SNICKER

PLEASE TAKE CARE NOT TO OVERDO IT ANY MORE!
GOODBYE!
UM, MAMA?
PAPA GOT ALL BETTER AGAIN!
WE'RE GOING TO START TRAVELING AGAIN.
I'M SURE WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON TOO, MAMA!
...

IT SEEMS LIKE PAPA PUT HIS JOB ON HOLD,
AND...
THAT WE'RE GOING HOME FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.
HMM?
HEY, SHIROU...
YEAH.
WHAT...?!
YOU MEAN, YOU MEAN THE HOME SHIYO AND PAPA AND MAMA USED TO LIVE IN?!
REALLY?!

I WANT TO VISIT HER GRAVE TOGETHER. BOTH OF US.
AND SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER LIKE A PROPER FATHER AND SON.
YEAH!


CAW
CAW
CAW
WE'RE GOING TO COME HOME.
- TORA
...
RUSTLE

HM.

THIS SHOULD BE INTEREST-ING...

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

TORAKICHI'S FELLOW MEDICINE SELLERS AT NANAKUSAYA. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE ABOUT THEM, BUT THE PATTERNS ON THESE THREE'S KIMONOS ARE PINE TREES, BAMBOO, AND PLUM. (UH, ANYWAY..)

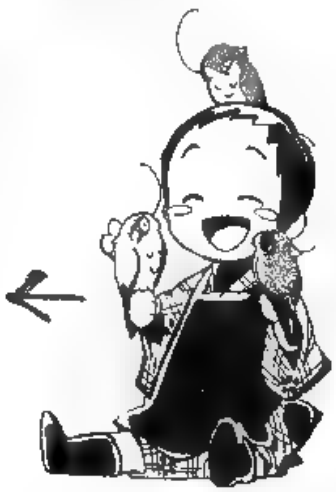
THOSE WHO SOLD MEDICINE HAD THEIR OWN TRADE ASSOCIATION. WHEN THEY GOT INTO TROUBLE ON THEIR TRAVELS, OTHER MEMBERS WOULD HELP THEM. THEY WOULD ALSO SHARE INFORMATION WITH ONE ANOTHER.

MEDICINE SELLERS AS COLLEAGUES

INN VISITS

MEDICINE SELLERS DECIDED ON REGULAR INNS TO STAY AT WHILE THEY WERE TRAVELING. IF AN INN WAS NOT AVAILABLE, THEY WOULD ARRANGE TO STAY AT THE HOME OF A CUSTOMER. IT SEEMS THEY EVEN MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHEN AND WHERE THEY WOULD EAT IN THIS WAY, AS WELL.

I ENDED UP WITH EXTRA PAGES THIS TIME TOO, SO HERE ARE SOME EXTRA THINGS..



A CHARM TO PROVIDE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN OR CHILDBIRTH. GIVEN THE FORM OF A DOG BECAUSE DOGS WERE SUPPOSED TO ENSURE A SAFE BIRTH AND HEALTHY BABY, AND SO ON. THERE ARE MANY OLD TALES OF DOGS PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SOMETHING BAD, AS WELL. THE ONES MADE IN EDO* BECAME QUITE WELL KNOWN.

PAPIER MACHE DOG

* EDO - THE HISTORICAL NAME FOR TOKYO.

REGIONAL LEDGER

THIS LEDGER RECORDED VARIOUS INFORMATION ABOUT CUSTOMERS THAT THE MEDICINE SELLERS HAD KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE HEREDITARY PROBLEMS, THEIR FAMILY SITUATION, OR PARTICULAR REACTIONS THEY HAD TO MEDICINES WHILE SICK. IF THIS WERE TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF A COMPETITOR, IT WOULD BE A BIG DISASTER.

IRYO

CHIHARU'S COMPANION MOUNTAIN HAWK. NAMED IRYO BY CHIHARU'S FATHER. HIS NAME IS DERIVED FROM THE IDIOMATIC "IRYONOBOU," MEANING "PARENTS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF THEIR CHILD." IRYO IS MALE, AND LIKES CLEANLINESS AND HELPING OTHERS.

YUJIRU'S COMPANION MOUNTAIN HAWK. GIVEN THE NAME INARI FOR THE FOOD LEFT AS A SHRINE OFFERING FOR INARI*. THE NAME IS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE GOES HUNGRY WHILE TRAVELLING ON THE ROAD. SHE'S A SMALL BIRD, BUT SHE EATS A HUGE AMOUNT OF FOOD.

INARI

*INARI - INARI IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SHINTO KAMI, VIEWED AS THE PATRON DEITY OF FOXES, BUSINESS, RICE, PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS. THE FOOD KNOWN AS INARI CONSISTS OF WHITE RICE WRAPPED IN FRIED TOFU POCKETS. THESE ARE GIVEN AS OFFERINGS TO INARI BECAUSE FRIED TOFU IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FAVOURITE FOOD OF FOXES, WHO ARE MESSENGERS OF INARI THE KAMI.

CHICHIKOGUSA 2 - AFTERWORD

HELLO! I HAVE RETURNED! THANKS TO EVERYONE, I WAS ABLE TO RELEASE A SECOND VOLUME OF "CHICHIKOGUSA." I'M VERY THANKFUL TO YOU ALL. HOW HAVE YOU ENJOYED TORAKICHI'S AND SHIROU'S JOURNEY SO FAR?

WHILE I WAS DRAWING VOLUME ONE, I WAS RAISING MY FIRST CHILD. THIS TIME, I SOMEHOW ENDED UP HAVING TO DRAW WHILE LIVING AS A MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN.

BOOK TEXT: MEDICINE

FORTUNATELY, SINCE THEY WERE BOTH BORN HEALTHY, I WAS ABLE TO WORK ON THIS SECOND VOLUME (ALTHOUGH IT WAS DEFINITELY HARD TO SCHEDULE!) AND RELEASE IT. WHAT A RELIEF. ANYWAY, I'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME, IN VOLUME THREE! BYE FOR NOW!

TAGAWA MI

BLADE COMICS

ちちこぐさ ②

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